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Can Louisiana afford to keep its promise to degree-seeking students?

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

For many students, TOPS is essential for paying tuition; losing this income source may cause some to halt their postsecondary education.

Over the past year, Louisiana students have worried about the possibility of losing scholarships endowed by the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) due to higher education budget cuts from the state.

The total amount of TOPS scholarships paid during the 2015-2016 school year was \$255,420,006.60. Within that figure, NSU students received \$9,611,053.64, which was less

than 90 percent of what the state promised to pay.

The gap between the full TOPS award and what was actually paid grew larger in 2016-2017. While three percent fewer NSU students qualified for assistance, the state paid 69 percent of what was initially awarded.

According to NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, TOPS is still up for discussion at the state legislature. House Bill 1 recently passed from the House of Representatives to the Senate; Maggio said this is a move in the right direction, but "the fight is far from over."

"We will work to assist our students as much as we can with their expenses," Maggio said. "We don't want to speculate on what we can [or] can't do until we see how much TOPS is funded and review our budget for next year."

The bill, written by Rep. Cameron Henry, R-Metairie, proposes to fully fund TOPS with the new state budget that will begin July 1. Originally, the bill only funded TOPS at 70 percent but was changed to the full amount after House deliberation.

The Senate will discuss the bill within the next few weeks, and a decision will be made by June 8 at 6 p.m.

After the Senate votes, the bill will go back to the House for approval. The bill will then go to the conference committee, which requires three to five members of each chamber to discuss the bill, come to an agreement and produce what is known as a "conference report."

In order for House Bill 1 to pass, this conference report must be approved by the Senate and the House, who UL System President Dr. Jim Henderson said often vote "in the last minutes of the last day of the [legislative] session."

"We will continue to advocate from the ULS office for full funding of TOPS," Henderson said. "We view it as a state commitment to students that simply must be fulfilled."

> Contributions by Christina Arrechavala, Alec Horton and Jordan Reich

Freshman Connection introduces new students

HANNAH MORRIS

Contributing Writer

Annual Freshman Connection activities are quickly approaching with the first event of the summer taking place May 25-26. These orientation sessions give new Demons the opportunity to learn more about Northwestern State and many different aspects of student life.

This year, there are four sessions: May 25-26, June 1-2, June 22-23 and July 11.

Each student is assigned a team for the event's duration beforehand and stay in those groups throughout the experience. Older students of the university inspired to give back to campus by teaching new students lead the teams in pairs as Freshman Connectors.

Teams are usually associated with colors and spiced up by the creativity of the Connectors; team names in the past have included "Teal-osaurus Rex" and the "Black Squad."

Freshman Connector Madysen Watts is looking forward to meeting the new students and, along with her partner, came up with the name "Yee Yee Yellow" for her team.

"I'm looking forward to helping students ease their anxiety about college by having fun and making NSU their home," Watts said. "I hope the freshmen become comfortable with our campus and make friendships that last for the rest of their lives."

Students can tour buildings on campus, take placement tests to help select classes for the upcoming semester, meet with advisors to register for courses and stay overnight in the campus dorms.

During the first day, freshmen can also tour booths set up by NSU's student organizations.

Student media organizations such as KNWD, the campus radio station, will be present during the organizational browse. If a student is interested in Greek life, they can find a booth corresponding to his or her desires, or even approach

athletic organizations such as the rowing team.

Booths are also available for students with scholarly ambitions; NSU is home to organizations like the speech and debate team and musicaffiliated groups such as Tau Beta Sigma, the band service sorority. Every booth provides information on their organization, and most will have something for students to slip into their backpacks along the way.

Freshman Connection was created with its future Demons in mind to help them learn more about the university they've chosen to attend. Afterwards, each freshman should feel even more comfortable saying "Fork 'em, Demons!" loud and proud.



Photo by Alec Horton

On May 4, Dr. Chris Maggio was confirmed as the next president of Northwestern State University to take effect May 12, the same day as NSU's spring commencement ceremonies.

Dr. Chris Maggio: the 19th president of NSU

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

r. Chris Maggio officially joined the ranks of 18 Northwestern State presidents on May 12 after a four-month tenure as Acting President.

His first goal: "continue the momentum that we have built up; even take it to another level."

"I love when I see what our students are doing - how engaged they are on campus, and how motivated our faculty are right now," Maggio said. "We want to continue to create that environment, and we're going to do that by continuing expand our student programming and continue to enhance our academic areas of campus. I think when we do that, we're going to keep this momentum."

Maggio's ascent to the presidency has been anything but sudden. In 1985, he graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science from NSU.

After a brief time coaching at St. Mary's Catholic School

in Natchitoches, he started his time on staff at NSU in 1988 and has held approximately a dozen positions in a variety of departments since then, including the following: assistant athletic director, director of admissions and recruiting, director of alumni and development, dean of students and assistant vice president for external affairs.

In 1991, Maggio completed his master's degree in physical education at NSU and earned his Doctor of Education in

developmental education from Grambling State University 11 years later.

Now Maggio there president, is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President for

The Student Experience, his most recent post. Campus programming, social responsibility and community leadership are all part of this department's daily operations.

campus.

'We haven't started the search [for a new VP-Student Experience]; we were just doing this one step at a time," Maggio said, referring to the presidential selection process. "That's going to be a very important position for us to fill over this next year."

Maggio credits Dean Frances Conine, Alan and Yonna Pasch, Jana Lucky, Reatha Cox, Lauren Jackson, Shayne Creppel and others for stepping up to fill the void since he was unable to work full time in the department this semester.

"We want to make sure we have a vibrant student We want to make environment sure we have a campus," Maggio that vibrant student said. "We just don't environment on want... directors different of departments sitting in a room making

decisions. It's important that we have student input involved as well."

Many universities only provide one week of "welcome week" events, but NSU offered over a month of varied activities last fall

called "Demon Days," not only for incoming freshmen but for returning students as

The student experience is something Maggio often cites as a key component of what "sets [NSU] apart" from other schools. He looks forward to working with student leaders to enhance this experience for many reasons - one being the potential for long-term support often provided by an institution's graduates.

"We have done a great job of recruiting the last few years," Maggio said. "My immediate goal is seeing if we can improve retention rates. I think that's so important to the health of our university."

NSU has seen its highest enrollment numbers since 2006 with a total of 9,819 students as of Oct. 15, 2016. According to the Office of Institutional Research, NSU experienced a retention rate of almost 71 percent in 2015 for second-year students while ACT reported a national average of 64 percent for public 4-year institutions.

Shreveport nursing campus to open café

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

Students at NSU's College of Nursing & School of Allied Health (CONSAH) in Shreveport currently do not have access to on-campus food establishments, such as Vic's or Iberville Dining Hall, for example, available at Natchitoches' campus. This will soon change with the construction of a Café DeMon opening in the near future.

Dr. Dana Clawson, dean of CONSAH, said members of the campus' SGA had long been asking for an eatery where students and faculty could purchase food between classes.

'The CONSAH campus does not have any food [or] drink vendors... other than vending machines," Clawson said. "The idea was originally the students'. I asked NSU's leadership council about having a coffee shop built, like the one being built - at that time - on the Natchitoches campus."

This wish has been granted, and the new café is projected to open July 1.

571 students were enrolled at the Shreveport campus in fall 2016. Clawson said this number, along with having over 50 faculty members, more than justifies the need for a food establishment, and that she "absolutely" believes this is a worthwhile investment for their community.

"Nursing students deserve to have a place to eat and get coffee between classes just like all other NSU students," Clawson said. "They do not have time to drive down a very busy road and return without being rushed and endangering themselves."

World premieres and recording projects

NSU choir to release album in September

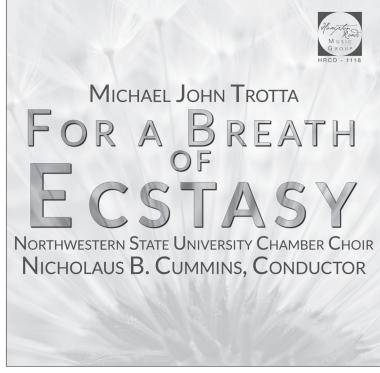
TORIA SMITH

Reporter

NSU's top-ranking vocal ensemble, Chamber Choir, will release a recording of a piece they performed earlier this year on Sept. 1.

"For A Breath of Ecstasy" by Dr. Michael John Trotta was commissioned and premiered by the ensemble on May 3. The New York-based composer visited Natchitoches to rehearse with the choir and then conduct in concert for the group.

"The choir and faculty showed an amazing amount of passion, artistry and excellence," Trotta said. "I think the release of the [recording] in September will show that...



Chamber Choir will release their first record, "For A Breath of Ecstasy," Sept. 1 on iTunes.

"One of my favorite things to do is to follow a piece from inspiration, to rehearsal, performance and finally to recording. It was an honor to work with the students and faculty," Trotta said.

"The choir enjoyed it and felt special premiering

something," Director of Choral Activities Dr. Nicholaus Cummins said. "It was an international premiere, and the recordings will be distributed worldwide."

Recordings of this performance, along with

others, will be available to the public on iTunes under the name "Northwestern State University Chamber Choir." Cummins hopes a second recording, "Let My Love Be Heard," will be available some time in the fall as well.

Choir member Ashleigh Pope thinks this project will start a long line of records to which NSU's music school will have the privilege of contributing.

"Our work with Dr. Trotta has opened the door for a unique opportunity," Pope said. "Dr. Cummins has been in contact with music publishers with the intent that Chamber Choir and possibly other NSU groups may be recorded performing newly-published pieces to be used as examples on the publishing company's website and marketing CDs."

Like Northwestern State University Choirs on Facebook at http://bit.ly/2pXn4kS



The Eyes of Argus

Impact the World

from "Fallen Rain" Argus 2015

ASHTON EBARB

One set of footprints nothing more One set of parents beyond the door

Now, where do I go? What do I do? How do I impact the world?

One single heart happy, confused One great confusion which do I choose?

And where do I go? What do I do? How do I impact the world?

One great dream yet unrealized One great prayer for guidance

To know where to go To know what to do To finally impact the world

Contact Editor-in-Chief Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@ nsula.edu if you are interested in getting involved with Argus, NSU's literary and arts magazine.

The Current Sauce's picks for summer events in Natchitoches

NSU Theatre presents 'Nunsense II'

June 14-17, June 12-24 A.A. Fredericks Auditorium

Independence Day 'Celebration on the Cane'

July 8 Natchitoches Riverfront

38th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

July 14-15 Prather Coliseum

Theatre presents 'Nunsense II'

MADDIE FRY

Contributing Writer

In past seasons, NSU Summer Dinner Theatre series brought us "Nunsense," a musical revue comedy that thrived in Off-Broadway venues for decades. This summer, NSU Theatre and Dance presents the muchanticipated sequel, "Nunsense II."

The show is directed by Pia Wyatt, associate professor in the theatre and dance department. Bethany Lee, junior theatre major, is the production's stage manager.

"It feels liberating to stage manage. It's extremely stressful, but there's something about working hard at what you love and seeing that finished product come to life," Lee said. "My favorite part is when the show goes up, and you get to bring joy to an audience."

"Nunsense II" follows the lives of the five "Sisters of Hoboken," whose combined strong personalities get them into trouble. The show is audience-inclusive and family-friendly, and for audience members who have not seen the first play, a recap will take place at the beginning of the show.

Cassidy Giddens, who just completed her freshman year in the theatre department, is playing the role of Sister Robert Anne in her first summer production at NSU.

"It's a really funny show, and I can't wait to see the audience's reactions to it," Giddens said.

Dates for "Nunsense II" are June 14-17 and June 21-24, and dinner is included with each \$30 ticket, available for purchase at 318-357-4218.

Like NSU Theatre and Dance on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ TheatreDanceNSU/



Austin, Texas-based duo Night Drive will perform June 3 at the ninth annual FPSF leading up to the release of their self-titled debut album on June 16.

Photo submitted by No Big Deal PR

FPSF: local artistry

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

The Free Press Summer Festival (FPSF) in Houston, Texas, has grown from 30,000 attendees to sold-out crowds of more than 90,000 as it comes into its ninth year.

This year's festival takes place June 3-4 at Eleanor Tinsley Park combining music, art and food and strives to be a more environmentally-friendly experience than your typical festival.

FPSF was founded in 2009 by Free Press Houston, a monthly newspaper "[not just] about arts and music but rather a newspaper put out by artists and musicians." The festival strives to please lovers of music genres from electronic to alternative.

Past headliners have included artists from various

genres: The Flaming Lips, Weezer, Chance the Rapper and Skrillex, to name a few. This year's big names include Lorde, Flume, Cage the Elephant and Lil Uzi Vert.

NSU nursing student Ashlee Mitchell said she is more than excited to attend FPSF for the first time and see artists like Post Malone, Anna Lunoe and Flume.

"This will be my first [music and arts] festival," Mitchell said. "I actually won tickets from a contest that [FPSF] was having on Instagram!"

Mitchell said she won the tickets by entering the daily giveaway contest FPSF is holding during the month of May on Instagram and Twitter.

She posted a photo of herself and a previous teacher using the themed hashtag for that day, #teachersday. FPSF then contacted her to tell her she was the winner of two free general admission tickets.

While Free Press Houston no longer owns or operates the festival, its current owner, C3, still keeps local artists at FPSF's core. C3 is known for festivals such as Voodoo Music + Arts Experience, Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits.

Night Drive, a duo from Austin, Texas, is just one of the local groups that will perform at the festival. Members Rodney Connell and Brandon Duhon produce a synth-pop sound they say is "inspired by sci-fi cinematic landscapes."

Night Drive will release their debut album on June 16, an 11-track self-titled record, including the new single "Rise and Fall."

NSU launches new program, 'Safe Haven'

JACOB FARNSLEY

KNWD News Coordinator

Title IX Coordinator Lori LeBlanc is currently starting a new program on campus called Safe Haven, which helps students and faculty to offer safe spaces to students dealing with a number of issues.

Interested students and faculty will receive training in issues related to suicide

prevention; academic success and support; the LGBTQ+community; monetary, housing, food, mental and physical health insecurities; faculty and staff's responsibilities concerning reports of sexual misconduct; tips for allies of transgender people; and issues relating to religious communities.

While no official date has been set, training will begin mid-September. Information

on Safe Haven training and organizational information will be posted on the NSU "Student Concerns" Facebook group at the start of the fall semester.

"[NSU wants] to expand and formalize the advocacy of many student services offices so that we can effectively eliminate barriers to life, academic and professional success for all NSU students," LeBlanc said.

Students represent NSU across the globe

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

NSU students are no strangers to summer activities whether it's fun in the sun or working hard. Students from many departments represent the university across the globe with their temporary jobs, internships and study abroad experiences.





Photos submitted by Libby Blair and Jeremy Orgeron

Libby Blair

Student ambassador and sophomore biology major Libby Blair said her summer will consist of working on campus and traveling outside of

the country.

Blair will work in NSU's recruiting office during the summer but also travel to Guaimaca, Honduras, on a mission trip. The trip, organized by Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International (BMDMI), will focus on working in a hospital setting with a team of health professionals and volunteers like Blair.

"Everyone else like me who are not licensed will help in any way we can organizing, playing with kids [and] going to other sites in Guaimaca to clean or clear," Blair said.

Blair will also travel to another Spanish-speaking Mexico, this country, family. summer with studied Though she Spanish in high school and only remembers the basics, she isn't nervous about the language barrier for either trip since she's armed with apps and technology to help with communication.

Jeremy Orgeron

Sophomore English major Jeremy Orgeron will travel to Angers, France, with a small group of fellow Demons to study abroad for a month. The trip to Angers has become an annual event for students and faculty, and students like Orgeron use it to immerse themselves in the French language and culture.

The study abroad trip also includes the required French course. The class, aimed at learning conversational French, is taught by Dr. Benjamin Forkner, assistant professor of French and Spanish at NSU.

Orgeron hopes to become fluent in French and "live like a local" while abroad, celebrating the rich experience that can come from learning and observing in an unfamiliar atmosphere.

"I think that being at least bilingual is important to connect, reach and understand more people," Orgeron said. "Not just with words, but with culture and the differences and similarities between peoples."

Visit nsulastudentmedia.com to read about more students' summer activities.

6 FEAT

A Freshman's Guide to Natchitoches

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

A ny small town requires creativity when finding ways to occupy time; with a little research, students can find Natchitoches offers more than what first meets the eye. As someone who has lived in Natchitoches their entire life, I know how dull this town can seem at first. I have compiled a list of tips on how to make the most of your time at NSU that I hope inspires you to get out of your dorm and explore the Natchitoches community.

DISCOUNTS

Put down the ramen noodles, kids, because many restaurants in Natchitoches offer discounts if you present a valid NSU student ID.

Every Monday night, The Cove (located inside Mariner's) hosts 50-cent wing night. If you aren't in the mood for wings, Front Street Marketplace has a Monday night special, too: all you can eat spaghetti! Every Tuesday night, Papa's hosts "Big C Night," offering the popular "Big C Burger" at a discounted price. If you're over 21, Maglieaux's offers bottomless mimosas every Sunday.

Restaurants aren't the only businesses that offer discounts, though. Students can receive a discount at Parkway Cinema 6 on Keyser Avenue and at several clothing stores, including Lux Clothing & Accessories. Also, because the Recreation Complex on Highway 1 is owned by NSU, students get in free with a student ID.

A good rule of thumb is to always ask businesses if they offer a student discount. It may not seem like much at the time, but one or two dollars off can really add up over time and make a difference for the broke college kid.

OBSCURE PLACES AND NIGHT LIFE

Unknown to many students, Natchitoches has an aquarium, bowling alley, art gallery and skating rink. One of my personal favorite places in town is the parish library on Second Street; I love to read, but even students who don't can come here for some quiet time. In my opinion, it's a lot cozier than Watson Library on campus.

Believe it or not, it's also possible to find night-life activities in Natchitoches. Pioneer Pub and Maglieaux's both offer a laid-back environment perfect for enjoying the company of good friends and, on some nights, live music: Thursday for the pub and Saturday for Maglieaux's. For people wanting more of a club feel, The Press Box is great for dancing or playing pool.

HISTORY

Natchitoches is the oldest permanent settlement in Louisiana, so it's no surprise the town offers plenty for history buffs. Fort St. Jean Baptiste, located on Jefferson Street, includes a replication of the original fort site and artifacts from the period. Drive a few miles past the movie theater on Keyser Avenue and you will find three plantation houses: Oakland, Magnolia and Melrose. Each spring, Melrose Plantation hosts the Arts and Crafts Festival offering house tours and vendors.

Speaking of festivals, Natchitoches is home to several, including the Meat Pie Festival, Christmas Festival, Jazz Festival and Dark Woods, to name a few. No matter what time of year, it's pretty much guaranteed there is a festival in town.

Natchitoches also offers a "Steel Magnolias" tour showing sightseers each location related to the famous 1989 movie.

The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame is home to interactive media and highlights the history of sports in our state.

Kaffie-Frederick General Mercantile is the oldest general store in Louisiana. Stepping inside will make anyone feel like they've stepped into an episode of "Little House on the Prairie."

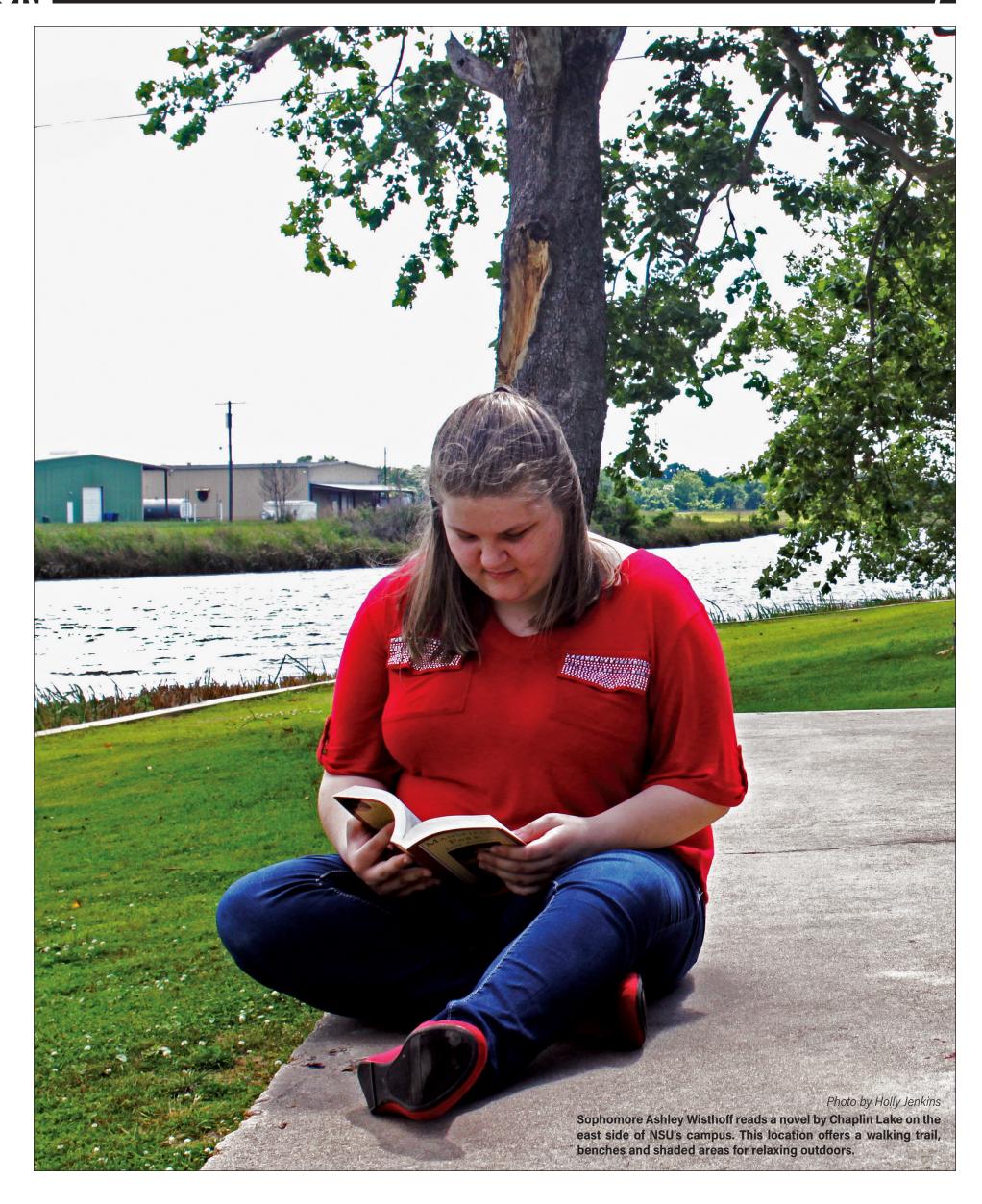
THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Natchitoches offers many options for when you want to get outdoors and stretch your legs. Beau Jardin – which translates to "beautiful garden" – is pretty self-explanatory. This spot is perfect for relaxing by the water, having a picnic or reading a book under the foliage.

The rest of the riverbank, although currently under construction, is also an attractive spot. For students who enjoy nature walks, Chaplin Lake offers a walking trail on the east side of campus with benches and several places for setting up hammocks or towels to relax.

If you're an animal-lover, you can volunteer at the Natchitoches Humane Society to walk a dog, which is really a win-win situation. Who doesn't love dogs? I'm guessing only people without souls.

If all else fails, it's totally possible to make your own fun as well! Sometimes relaxing at home with close friends, pizza and a few movies on Netflix is the best way to go. No matter which option you choose, fun can be found in Natchitoches. The town may be small, but its heart is huge.



8 SPORTS

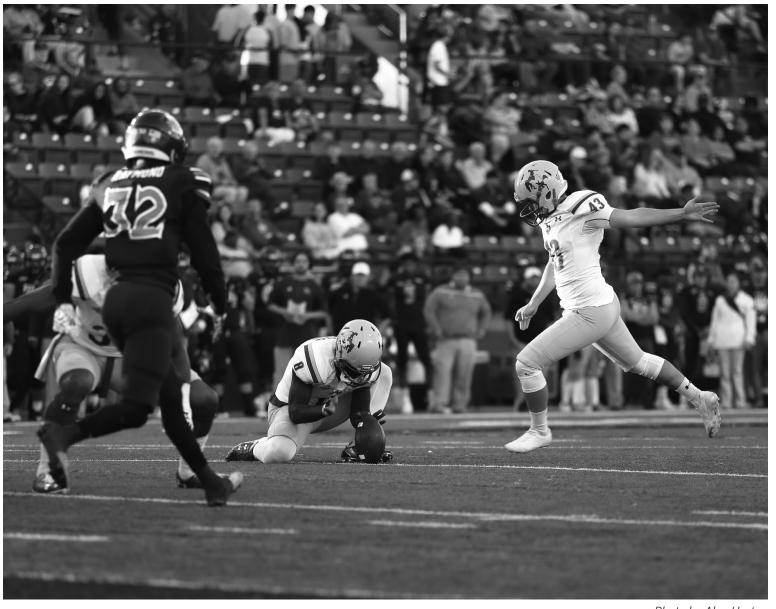


Photo by Alec Horton

FILE - In this Oct. 22, 2016, file photo, a McNeese State player prepares to kick the ball for a field goal. Northwestern State lost this game to McNeese 48-27.

Football working to ensure more wins next season

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

orthwestern State's football team won a single game last season. Despite the unfavorable record, players and coaches are optimistic the upcoming season will be better than the last.

Kyle Manley, assistant offensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator, was unimpressed with the team's performance last season.

"We are doing everything we can to get it fixed," Manley said.

The team worked throughout the spring semester to improve in three categories: offense, defense and special teams.

"Everyone can improve at every position," Manley said. "There will be some new schemes on both sides of the ball that will hopefully make us more successful... We all expect to win a lot more games and work towards a conference championship."

Quarterback and psychology major J.D. Almond said he is sure the team is better than what their stats suggest.

"Our record is not a great reflection of our season," Almond said. "We had success in many ways throughout the 11 weeks... We grew as a team and staff last year."

Almond thinks people ignore things that improved

"Everyone can improve at last season and said each ery position," Manley said. game had highlights that there will be some new were overlooked because the nemes on both sides of the

"Our guys gave it everything week in and week out regardless of the record we held," Almond said. "We have identified the areas that need work, and we have put in the time and effort to get better as a whole. Working while tired and staying sharp mentally has been a huge focal point."

To improve the performance of the team in the 2017 season, NSU hired two new assistant coaches: Jeff Bowen, offensive line coach; and Jake Olsen, assistant coach - inside linebackers. In addition to

these two coaches, Brad Laird has returned to NSU as associate head coach and defensive coordinator after a four-year tenure as head coach at Ruston High School.

"Coach Laird brings a lot of experience as well as familiarity with NSU, having played and coached here," Manley said. "He will do a great job leading our defense this fall."

Manley said he is looking forward to the new players joining the team this fall.

"We signed a little bit of everything," Manley said. "We tried to have a good balance of guys that can help us right away as well as young guys that will be really good a few years from now."

Two football players earn spots on Rams preseason roster

DOUG IRELAND

NSU Sports Information
Director

LOS ANGELES – De'Mard Llorens and Shakeir Ryan, two of the most productive players in Northwestern State football history, made the most of their tryouts at rookie mini-camp with the Los Angeles Rams.

Both have been signed to free agent contracts, the Rams announced May 15. The Demons were two of only three players brought in on a tryout basis who were signed after the minicamp, bringing the Rams roster to 89 players including their former NSU teammate, offensive tackle Pace Murphy, who made the Rams roster as an undrafted free agent last year.

Former Demons center and assistant coach Bill Johnson joined the Los Angeles coaching staff as the defensive line coach earlier this year under new coach Sean McVay and defensive coordinator Wade Phillips.

There are two other Demons active on NFL rosters, veterans Jeremy Lane (Seattle) and Deon Simon (New York Jets), plus second-year receiver Ed Eagan, who was on the Buffalo practice squad roster ending last season. Former Demon player and coach Barry Rubin is the veteran strength and conditioning coach for Kansas City, after earlier stints in Philadelphia and Green Bay.

Visit nsudemons.com for the full story

Basketball player granted 'unusual' waiver

DOUG IRELAND

NSU Sports Information Director

NATCHITOCHES – Dynamic point guard Jalan West, who has missed the last two seasons with knee surgeries, has received a seventh-year waiver from the NCAA and will play his senior season next winter for the Northwestern State basketball team.

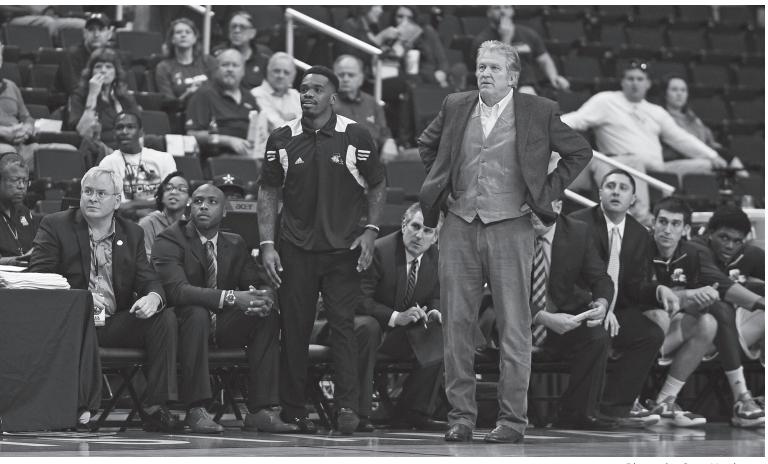
Head coach Mike McConathy said NSU received notice its waiver request was granted to allow West to play his senior season. West, who graduated last May and has remained in school pursuing a psychology degree, and McConathy were ecstatic at the news.

"I'm thankful and grateful to have another opportunity to be back out there and be part of the team," West said. "Now I can accomplish everything I promised myself we would accomplish when I came here: winning a conference championship, being a great teammate, being a team leader, and getting back to the NCAA Tournament again, and winning games there. I want to lead by example, be a role model to kids, to help people. Getting back in the game gives me those opportunities and it's a great blessing."

"Friday afternoons are really nice, but this one is really, really a good Friday afternoon," McConathysaid. "Our compliance office did a wonderful job and we're so appreciative of them and all the people who helped provide the documentation for the NCAA to review, and for the ruling to allow him this opportunity."

Dustin Eubanks, assistant athletics director and NSU's NCAA compliance director, said he and assistant Demetrus Caldwell found three cases of seventh-year waivers in developing the basis for the successful appeal. NCAA rules allow players five years to play four seasons; in some cases due to injury, the NCAA grants a sixth-year waiver. West's case was not unique, but unusual.

"They've happened before, but are just not common," Eubanks said. "Jalan received the extension [last May] for his sixth year, which means the NCAA wanted him to get that fourth season of competition. The injury last summer kept him from getting that fourth season last winter, so they extended it another year."



Photos by Gary Hardamon

Guard Jalan West and Mike McConathy, head coach, look on from the sidelines of a game. The two were excited to find out on May 5 that West was granted an additional waiver to complete his senior season with the basketball team in 2017-18.

The Bossier High School product is NSU's career assists leader (614) and 3-pointers king (212), is third in steals (219) and sixth all-time in scoring (1,592 points). He had seven NCAA top 10 career rankings entering last season.

West suffered a knee injury in the first game of the 2015-16 season. After surgery, he reinjured the same ligament in July 2016 and missed the 2016-17 season.

"It has been probably the toughest years of my life," West said. "Having something that you love, something you do on a daily basis with the people you care about, taken away from you is pretty rough.

"But it's a blessing in disguise to sit back and look at it from a different perspective. When you're playing, you don't notice what you have, and you take things for granted, until it's taken away," West said. "On the sideline you hear the coaches coach, and I was able to see my teammates' best attributes, so I can put them in a position to be successful. If we all buy in and come together as one, we can do some great things.

"I've experienced more of the entirety of the game. I thought it was more physical: coming in and putting in the work. Now I

I have plenty of WORK to do to get ready this season

think it's more mental: reflecting on all the things you go through and learn from them. I have plenty of work to do to get ready this season – plenty of things to improve," West said.

Watching another great NSU player, 2017 senior Zeek Woodley, sit out most of his senior season due to a wrist injury and then return to play explosively at the end of the season raises McConathy's optimism about West.

"Watching for the past two years, I think Jalan's game has grown... because he's seen things from the sideline," McConathy said. "We saw that this year with Zeek, when he came back for the last four games after having to watch for 15 games. He was really, really special when he came back."

McConathy was giddy considering pairing the most prolific point guard in school history with an impressive signing class and returning veterans.

"We'll have a lot of speed, and that makes a lot of difference of the level of play in our conference," McConathy said.

As NSU compiled a 19-13 record in 2014-15 and finished fourth in the SLC standings, West led the nation with 7.7 assists per game in 2014-15 to pair with 20 points per game, 16th nationally.

Then-sophomore Woodley was the nation's second-leading scorer (22.2 points per game), and Woodley and West formed the nation's highest scoring tandem (42.2 points per game).

West already owns NSU's career assist record with 614. He is NSU's reigning 3-point shooter (212 made) and also on track to become the Demons' all-time steals leader, with his 219 total 45 away from the mark.

He ranks in the top 20 among NCAA career leaders in assists per game (6.4), in total assists (614); in assist-turnover ratio (2.6); steals per game (2.28) and total steals (219). His 16.6 career scoring average is among the top 30.



Jalan West

Senior

(With Zeek Woodley)
"Best Duos in
College Basketball,"
BleacherReport.com
2015

NCAA assist leader (7.7 assists per game) 2015

Southland Conference Defensive Player of the Year 2014

Southland Conference Freshman of the Year 2013



10 OPINION

SAB President gives advice to incoming freshmen



BRALYN JAMESSAB President

You did it! You have graduated high school and are heading towards another major milestone in life: college!

I remember my freshman year like it was yesterday. Things will be a little different, but this is a time for new beginnings, so take advantage of it. Maybe you feel completely prepared for this transition, and maybe you don't; either way, things will be just fine.

You will have many new responsibilities in college. Your parents won't be there to help you with laundry, cook for you or remind you about your homework.

Prioritizing, selfcontrol and time management are keys to success. It's definitely a balancing act, but don't put too much pressure on yourself.

Go to class, get out of your comfort zone, and get involved! A lot will happen during your first semester, but if you get into a routine of things and put academics first, you will have the time of your life!

Northwestern State has a lot of resources to ensure the best college experience; be sure to utilize them, especially the WRAC to avoid the "Freshman 15."

There are so many events that happen during

"Welcome Week," or shall I say, "Welcome Month," so try your best to attend as much as you can! Attending events is a great way to meet new people, make new friends and even find out about organizations you may want to join.

Don't be afraid to approach someone new and start a conversation, because a lot of people are in your exact shoes. Be sure to surround yourself with good people that give off good energy!

My first semester,
I joined the Student
Activities Board, or "SAB"
as it is most commonly
called, and I can honestly
say it was one of the best
decisions I made my first
year. I met some of my
closest friends, and I
don't know where I would
be if I hadn't done it.

As an organization, we plan events for the campus such as homecoming week, casino night, spring fling, and many more. We are always looking for volunteers, so if this is something that seems interesting, feel free to reach out!

The next four years are going to be what you make of it. I know that four years may seem like an eternity, but trust me: it flies by, so do fun things, and try not to worry too much.

Take as many pictures, videos and Snapchats as you want to remember it all!

Be sure to keep in touch with family back home, because life will still happen although you are not there.

You may not have it all figured out yet; I didn't, but I assure that you eventually will. Good luck to you, and as always, fork 'em, Demons!

We must #resist in Baton Rouge together

MEG DENNY

Opinion Columnist

I had my first disturbing experience of what the process of lawmaking in Louisiana looks like in the earlier days of the 2017 state legislative session.

It was May 10. I was in Baton Rouge at the capitol to support two proposed house bills, HB 112 and 222, that would create an easier pathway to closing the wage gap between men and women in the state. To advance, the bills had to pass through the house labor committee, so the day the committee met to discuss them, I showed up in my red top – red is the equal pay advocacy color – to sit in on the hearing and show my support

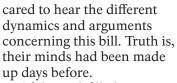
It was clear the room filled with red-clothed constituents was mostly in favor of pushing this legislation forward. Testimonies provided by supporters were powerful. Women shared personal stories about being underpaid and overqualified.

Other house representatives spoke to committee members about positive business impacts equal pay can have.

Some people in the audience cheered for speakers, despite being told they weren't allowed to, and of course, I joined in.

But there was a darker side to this hearing. As I hung on to every word the supporters offered in testimony, I noticed committee members seemed mentally absent. Some only took their eyes off their phones to ask antagonizing questions to speakers. Some would have informal conversations with each other in the middle of an intense moment and start to laugh.

It seemed as if very few legislators on this committee



Of this red-filled room, few offered testimony in opposition to the bill. Of the committee members, the black men were the ones listening intently to the words of each constituent.

When both equal-pay bills were killed in a 9-5 vote, the black legislators were the only champions for equal pay in Louisiana, along with the author of HB 222, Rep. Helena Moreno, D-New

As I hung on to every

word the supporters

offered in testimony,

I noticed committee

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seemed
seent.

There is a
dynamic in the
capitol we as
constituents
must strive to
expose. On May
16, the house
voted to push
forward HB 71,
a bill halting
the takedown
of historic
monuments –

white supremacist statues – in New Orleans until a vote is taken among citizens.

This bill is a blatant attempt to throw a curveball at the efforts of racial justice activists. It is rare that a state legislature messes with city procedure, but our state representatives decided to draw the line at monuments holding within them a history of oppression and

Do you know what happened when the house voted to push the bill forward after one woman said people of color need to "get over" slavery?

Members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC) walked off the floor in protest.

We all know about the resistance in D.C. Some of us often support national efforts to fight misogyny, homophobia, racism, etc.

But do you know where we can start creating tangible change in politics? Baton Rouge.

I invite you to email members of the LLBC to thank them for their efforts. Tell them that you stand with them.

I invite you to learn about state government, find out who represents you in Baton Rouge, and get to know them. Here in Natchitoches, Rep. Kenny Cox is a strong advocate for equal pay for women and minorities. I invite you to call him, thank him and learn more about advocating for your causes in the capitol with your representatives.

Nothing in Baton Rouge will change if we don't pay attention. Our allies need our support, and our opponents must be held accountable.

Visit legis.la.gov to watch live streams of the session, find out who represents you and follow bills relating to causes close to you. The session ends June 8. Please get involved before then. If you don't, you have to wait another year before you can begin to influence what laws exist in the state of Louisiana.



Is NSU truly 'gun free'?

JOHN HURT

Opinion Columnist

o say America is a gun culture is an understatement by far. If it goes bang, we love it. If it goes boom, we want it. If it goes pow, we say "wow" and buy two of them. America is a gun-loving society.

According to a study by Harvard and Northeastern University, there is a ratio of more than one gun for each

adult in the U.S.

The Second Amendment says "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Cut and dry. Simple.

Why is this significant to you, the NSU student? That means you, as a citizen of the U.S., have the right to own firearms for protection. That's it. However, some places are able to further restrict where people can carry guns.

NSU is a gun-free zone, and for the most part, I

agree with that. I wish I could carry a firearm on campus, but I understand that if they were to let me, they'd have to let everyone else. Quite frankly, I wouldn't trust some of you with a spitball gun and a stack of copy paper.

I am, however, irked that NSU hosts Concealed Carry Permit classes on campus. Our university, like I said, is a gun-free zone.

According to our student handbook, "Possession of a firearm, when in violation of state laws, System policy, or university policy, shall be grounds for dismissal from the university."

To me, a logical person, it's obvious why we can't have guns on campus. To NSU's leaders: how come we're gun-free until it benefits our wallets? I feel we need to pick one side. Be pro-gun or gun-free. We can't bend the rules to benefit our checkbook.

Guns have two purposes: one is to protect. The other is to harvest food, like delicious white-tailed deer.

Why do I feel everyone, especially students, should carry a firearm for protection? (Trigger warning) Because, to be frank, nothing on Earth says "Stop raping me!" like a 9mm hollowpoint to the chest.

I would much rather see on the news, "NSU girl shoots and kills would-be rapist," than to see, "NSU girl raped after leaving frat

Our campus is fairly safe, and our police department does a great job keeping it that way, but off campus, it's not so safe. Don't go looking for trouble, but if a credible threat to your life comes, remember to shoot center mass; ammo is cheaper than a funeral.

There are other cases as to why you should own a firearm, but the honest truth is that some of those we may never face like an oppressive government. However, if a threat to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness comes, then we should have the ability to end it.

That is our right.



Photo by Sarah Hill

Letter from the editor

ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

Hello incoming students, and welcome to the NSU community! I hope you have enjoyed this issue of The Current Sauce so far.

This issue contains just a taste of what you can expect from your student newspaper every Wednesday throughout the school year: NSU and local news, arts, sports, student profiles, entertaining features, opinions and, occasionally, satire.

Our mission is to get facts out to the NSU community without bias and give students a platform where their opinions can be expressed. It takes a lot of courage to put your name on something thousands of people will read; I hope many of you find this courage within yourselves during your time at school here.

As a news source, it is our responsibility to publish fair and accurate information regardless of who or what looks good or bad as a result. Therefore, whenever we publish information that may make NSU look bad, please know we're doing it for the greater good of this university.

Despite what some may say about our paper, we have no political agenda as an organization. Some of our critics say we have a liberal bias, but this is simply not true;

if you ever notice our opinion section having a tendency to contain more liberal viewpoints than conservative, it is because we receive very few conservative opinion submissions.

Instead of complaining that we are a "liberal paper," please do something about it and write to us. All opinions of substance are valid regardless of political leanings.

Students can submit opinion articles at any time to the current sauce @ gmail.com, but this does not guarantee your article will be published. Opinions must be well researched and well defended, make a clear argument for any particular viewpoint, contain zero factual errors and be relevant to our target audience: NSU students.

Lastly, know that we always welcome contributors. There is always more work we can do as an organization, such as writing more articles, taking more photos, enhancing our social media content, reaching out to NSU's satellite campuses or planning events that increase students' engagement with our newspaper.

If you want to join the 102-year tradition of The Current Sauce, I encourage you to email me at ashorton21@gmail. com, and I will be happy to answer any of your questions.

You decide what your college experience will be



TORIA SMITH Opinion Columnist

Congrats on graduating from high school and starting your freshman year here at Northwestern State! I know four years seems like an incredibly long amount of time to spend in Natchitoches, but it will fly

by. Trust me, I know from

experience.

Dear incoming freshman,

As my time as a Demon ends, yours is just beginning. Here are a few things I think you should know:

Make sure you get to know the people around you here. Who knows how much they'll end up meaning to you in the future?

I'm not going to tell you to blow off school and live it up every day, but remember to set time aside for a little fun.

College is a place for reinvention and exploration, so get out of your comfort zone. Join organizations you're interested in, take classes just for fun, talk to the person wearing the cool shirt in Iberville, and go to campus

Let go of the cliquey habits you may have grown accustomed to in high school.

There is no "popular" group in college, so spend less time worrying about fitting in, and embrace what makes you stand out.

NSU is small enough to facilitate close working relationships between students and faculty. Your professors can help you network with people in your field and assist with developing your interests. Plus, they're really fascinating!

NSU is great, but it is not perfect; no institution is. If something needs to be changed, set about changing it. Leave this university better than you found it for the next generation of students.

Only you can decide what your college experience will be; make sure it's enjoyable.

NSU adds new alumni to its ranks

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

Over its 133-year history, Northwestern State has graduated over 75,000 students. 1,737 new alumni are welcomed to these ranks from the 2016-2017 academic year. Spring commencement ceremonies on May 12 not only accepted new alumni but also officially marked the start of Dr. Chris Maggio's presidency.

Special guests included some members of the UL System Board of Supervisors, two representatives from the Louisiana State Legislature, President of Natchitoches Parish Rickey Nowlin and other distinguished guests – one of which was alumnus Stewart Ewing, who received an honorary doctorate in the morning ceremony.

NSU's 18th president and current ULS President Dr. Jim Henderson made an appearance as well to bestow the NSU President's Chain to Maggio. This chain has the name of each previous president engraved with the respective years each served.

Complete with confetti cannons, on-stage selfies and dabbing, speeches were filled with jokes about tweets, Jimmy Leach finally graduating – after eight years – and advice for the 2017 class on "adulting 2.0."

Ewing, speaker at both spring ceremonies, gave ten lessons to the new graduates, including the following: focus on improvement, not perfection; become a good listener; follow your passion; be humble; and do the right thing.



Photo by Kasi Patten

Sisters of the Kappa Chi chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi, Jessica Rousset and Amber Lamers, enter the floor in Prather Coliseum for the spring commencement ceremony.

Graduates also have advice to give future generations of Demons for their experiences in "Demonland."

Courtney Foret received a Bachelor of Science in psychology from the Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development. She will continue her education at the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue a master's degree in applied behavioral analysis.

"Honestly, it hasn't fully hit me yet [that I've graduated]," Foret said.

Her advice to incoming freshmen: "Get involved, and make sure you stay on top of your work, because it pays off in the end," Foret said.

From the Louisiana Scholars' College, Michael Thrower graduated magna cum laude, a distinction given to those earning a

it hasn't 3.70-3.89 GPA, earning et [that I've a Bachelor of Science in psychology with a minor in liberal arts.

Following graduation, Thrower will take a year off to study for the LSAT and GRE in preparation of applying for either law school or graduate school. Though his own path isn't set in stone, Thrower said everyone should ultimately determine their own.

"Find the path that works for you, and don't let anyone tell you what your path is," Thrower said. "It's something that you need to decide for yourself, and don't let your path be swayed too much by others."

The Current Sauce would like to extend our congratulations to the class of 2017 and welcome the incoming freshman class to the NSU family.



Want to explore journalism

in a hands-on learning environment?

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Applications are available through OrgSync at https://orgsync.com/97419/forms/261292

All incoming freshmen are eligible.



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NSU ranks first in five student satisfaction categories

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

From the often-present "fork 'em, Demons" on social media posts to the sea of purple in Turpin Stadium – regardless of whether fans are present or not, calling the Northwestern State community loud and proud would be an understatement.

NSU received results from the 2017 Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory assessment during the last week of June. Out of nine categories surveyed for the nine UL System schools, NSU ranked first in five of them: instructional effectiveness, registration effectiveness, student centeredness, campus climate and campus services.

Recruitment and financial aid effectiveness and academic advising effectiveness tied second with UL-Monroe and Southeastern Louisiana, respectively; safety and security earned a third-place rating, and campus life ranked fifth

After ACT discontinued the Student Opinion Survey, the UL System used this assessment in 2013 where NSU was above the national average for public four-year institutions in all nine categories surveyed. This

trend still continues in 2017.

Altogether, the UL System ranks above the national average in eight of the nine categories, however, it falls incrementally behind in safety and security.

Averaging all nine rankings shows NSU students are the most satisfied within the UL System by a margin of .04 points. Southeastern Louisiana came in second, and McNeese State placed third.

Though NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio said it was an honor to be ranked so highly, he emphasized the importance of humility and that there will always be work to do to improve the student experience.

"We want to continue to listen to students," he said. "We want to make sure that we are doing our best to provide good service to our students. I hope the students realize that these offices are really working hard to try to make sure processes are streamlined... If they have a concern, they can let us know."

Music education major David Jenkins attended NSU the first semester of his freshman year, transferred to Southeastern Louisiana his second semester, then returned to NSU for the entirety of his sophomore year. This fall, Jenkins will continue into his junior year at Mississippi State University.

Jenkins said the fifthplace category, campus life, was deserved. This category includes residence hall staff and living conditions, food selection, disciplinary procedures and student activity fees.

"I would say that we do have very nice dorms," he said. "It's just simple things. I'll always hear people [say] the internet is really bad. Things like that would be really simple to fix. Obviously, the large, glaring problem is the food."

During his freshman year, Jenkins lived on campus and regularly ate at Iberville Dining Hall, which he said frequently made him sick.

"I don't know if it's because it's so heavily processed, and my body's not good with that," he said. "It's not that it just doesn't taste good; I feel like it's not healthy. It's not nutritionally optimal either."

Sodexo General Manager Steve Kauf objected to this claim and said the food served in campus eateries is restaurant quality and is subject to the same inspections as commercial food. "We have healthy options at every meal, and all of the items are nutritionally rated and posted, so we are not hiding any ingredients or what you are getting," he said. "We offer a variety of healthy and, I agree, not so healthy options, but it is up to the consumer to decide what they choose... We try to offer what most people are asking for."

According to Kauf, Sodexo is inspected at least four times a year, three times by the local health department and once by NSF International, to ensure campus food services meet federal regulations for safety.

"There are many reasons people get sick," he said. "Everything from living in close quarters for the first time with lots of new people, to food allergies, to anxiety over tests. If [there were] a foodborne illness caused by our food, there would probably be many people infected due to the volume of food we serve."

During the regular school year, Sodexo serves about 3,000 meals a day on the Natchitoches campus. Kauf invites students to his office on the first floor of the Friedman Student Union if they have complaints with food service.

Conine named interim Vice President

DAVID WEST

NSU Director of Communications

NATCHITOCHES

Frances Conine has been named interim vice president for the student experience and dean of students at Northwestern State University effective July 3. The appointment is subject to approval for the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System and will be through June 30, 2018.

Conine has served as dean of students for the past four years. She will lead the Offices of Admissions, Recruiting, Financial Aid, Student Activities and Organizations, First Year Experience and Leadership Development,



Photo by Gary Hardamon

Judicial Services, Counseling and Career Services, Student Life, the Student Activities Board, Student Government Association, Greek Life, Health Services, Disability Services and Student Support Services. Conine said she would work to continue NSU's pattern of enrollment growth and increases in retention and graduation rates.

"My goals as interim vice president will be to focus on strategic planning, recruiting and retention, and supporting the great staff we have to reach their goals," Conine said. "Access to higher education and student advocacy will continue to be my focus. As dean of students my goals have been to promote diversity and inclusion, to promote healthy life styles (particularly mental health) among our students, and to fulfill our obligations to Title IX and other legallymandated programs in higher education.

Police Blotter

July 4

Car refusing to stop for Officer

Gate at Central Ave. Person stopped by Natchitoches PD

July 5

Dog left in vehicle

Teacher Education Center Person warned about the danger

Suspicious persons

Turpin Stadium
Persons asked to leave

Unauthorized pool use *University Place I* Persons asked to leave JULY 11.2017 ARTS & LIVING 3



The Eyes of Argus

A Little Girl Named Nola

from "Untamed" Argus 2012

AMANDA SABALA

I grew up not in Uptown, and not in Downtown on Frenchman, but on a sweet mouth.

When I was born, my cries were unruly jazz. The words I learned were smooth and slow. Ragtime was my angry rhythm. Blues was my sad and lovesick sounds.

My skin tastes of King Cake, and I wait for my Baby to be found. Braid my beignet hair and rub my powder hands down your jeans.

My church square eyes love musicians and painters; my crescent smile bridges Mighty Rivers that keep on rollin'.

I have my black and gold religion and God has our faith. The holy baby boys will be marching up and down my alleyways.

I fend off a hurricane of suitors with my levee arms.

They try to drown my streets in love songs, flushing out my low bars.

No zoot suit-man gonna to take me down; no man gonna quiet me up.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu if you are interested in getting involved with Argus, NSU's literary and arts magazine.



Photo from Creative Commons

Where does declining balance go?

Into the pockets of Sodexo

SAMANTHA CLARK

Social Media Manager

Declining balance season: to Northwestern State students, this is the last few weeks of the spring semester where students with large amounts of declining balance left treat everyone they know, and don't know, to lunch or coffee to get rid of their money.

Many students run their balance dry, but what about those who still have money in their account? Where does their money go?

NSU and Sodexo have a contract that is reviewed, changed if needed, then approved by the university and the UL System board every year. In this contract, it states Sodexo receives all the

money students did not spend during the year.

NSU has a policy where students do not have to pay all tuition and fees up front; they can pay it in segments throughout the semester. Sodexo does internal billing that tracks how much declining balance is spent and then bills the university. Northwestern then uses money they receive from students to pay Sodexo every four to six weeks.

When students pay their bills, the last section to be paid for is the meal plan. If students fall short of their bill, Sodexo takes the hit because NSU cannot pay them.

Sodexo General Manager Steve Kauf explained it best: "Let's say a student pays their meal plan as \$1000, and they don't pay that bill. We've already taken that as income because we go through the whole semester each week, break down a meal plan, and charge that to the university, then they pay us for what the student should've been paying.

"If by the end of the year he doesn't pay, the university doesn't pay us for the amount that he should've paid. We take a debit against our sales because we thought we were [going to] get that money. We billed the university for it, and we didn't get paid for it, so we take it out of sales."

Every 12-18 months, Sodexo checks to see if everything has been paid for. It is not strictly stated in the contract, but Sodexo uses leftover money, which is usually not a large sum according to Kauf, to cover what has not been paid.

When asked for a copy of the contract, Kauf said Sodexo does not want the contract published because it would give competitors an unfair advantage, and that this is an "industry-wide standard."

"I can tell you, all contracts are approved by the UL System board," he said. "I think we all on the University side and Sodexo side agree it is workable and fair."



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All incoming freshmen are eligible.

4 FEAT

The 38th annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

The Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival, scheduled July 14-15, has been a tradition for the last 38 years. It serves as a reminder of what happened in the past that led to Louisiana culture as it is today. What better place to celebrate Louisiana culture than in the state's oldest settlement?

The festival serves as the NSU Folklife Center's outreach not just to the Natchitoches community, but to all of Louisiana. Guests will experience the unique Louisiana culture through food, music and handmade crafts.

"[We] want to help folks realize just how rich and diverse the folk life is in this state and how awesome that folklore is," Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the NSU Folklife Center, said.

Elements of Louisiana's folklore will be displayed during the two-day festival. It will include crafts ranging from walking sticks and pine-needle baskets to a "Day of the Dead" altar and a Saint Joseph's Day alter, all of which will be made on site.

Some activities will please people who enjoy hands-on interaction, such as the July 15 Cajun accordion workshop with artists Ray Abshire and Steve Riley. The musicians will share tricks of the trade and different techniques required to master an instrument few know much about. This workshop is free for all festival patrons.

While the crafts may be what guests take home as their memory, it is the music that will make festival goers get on their feet and dance.

The music will include a variety of Cajun tunes by Ray Abshire and Friends and traditional zydeco from Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience. Also featured will be a current NSU student, Clancey Ferguson, a bluegrass musician Rasmussen described as a "dynamite fiddler."

Rasmussen feels strongly about the impact of live music for the festival.

"It's immediate," he said. "When you get to the festival in a live environment, you'll have the band feeding off the energy of the crowd that is dancing with them."

One highlight of the festival is the Annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship taking place July 15 in Magale Recital Hall at 1 p.m. The winner will perform that evening on the main stage in Prather Coliseum.

According to Rasmussen, the winner always changes; they have had winners ranging from the age of 10 to older than 60.

Although the fiddle championship and the many other varied groups performing on stage add to the festival, Rasmussen believes the open-jam groups are the festival's true heart.

In these jam groups, people will play anything and everything wherever they can find space, even in a hallway or corner.

It is in these jam sessions that people recognize voices of their culture and "pick up the torch of tradition," as Rasmussen put it.

Rasmussen believes when these open-jam sessions come to an end, that is when the festival will shut its doors for good. He believes nothing survives without a heartbeat, and the jams are what drive the heart of the festival.

The Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival is also important to history, according to Rasmussen.

"When people experience firsthand the folk traditions of Louisiana, they realize how wonderful the people of Louisiana are," he said. "They hear the unique genius of the common person and how that has more life and more heart than anything they'll hear in the manufactured songs on the radio."

The festival is not just a reflection of who a person is; it's also a portal to what their ancestors were and to what they can be.

"Each individual player is going to add something different... Folklorists have the feeling that history is not static," Rasmussen said. "It is always moving forward."

There is something for all ages at the folk festival to experience a little bit of Louisiana folklore and glance down memory lane.

This year's festival will take place July 14-15 in Prather Coliseum. Kids 12 and under are admitted for free, and tickets for a two-day pass are \$13, available until July 11. A \$6 pass for Friday evening or a \$10 Saturday pass can be purchased at the door, cash only.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 318-357-4332, email folklife@nsula.edu or go to louisianafolklife.nsula.edu



TURE 5



Arts and crafts, live music and food vendors are just a few of the attractions of the annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Photos by Karalee Scouten



6 SPORTS JULY 11.2017

Bright lights, big scoreboard

Turpin Stadium receives \$900K scoreboard

LEXI ANTOON

Reporter

The 2017 football season is about to get a lot brighter with the addition of a new scoreboard at Turpin Stadium, financed through private donations and contingency funds.

The previous scoreboard was part of a \$2.2 million-dollar project in 2008 that upgraded all scoreboards on NSU's campus. Turpin's new scoreboard cost \$900,000, and a majority of the funding came from Demon fans and alumni.

This is not the only facelift the football stadium has received recently. In 2016, a \$500,000 donation funded renovations to replace old stadium seats with brand new, NSU-purple seats.

A nonaffiliated company will operate the board, which is a common occurrence in Division I sports. This



Rendering provided by NSU Sports Information

Turpin's new scoreboard will be considerably larger than the previous one and offer more advanced technologies.

company's experience operating these boards will allow fans to experience all the bells and whistles the scoreboard has to offer, including more advanced video capabilities than the previous one and the ability for referees to make more accurate calls based on video

recaps

"This project is especially important for our football program as it relates to recruiting, image and game atmosphere," Director of Athletics Greg Burke said.

As the Demon football players put in work on the practice field, they

are excited to see the new additions to their home game surroundings. Nothing gets the adrenaline pumping more than a roaring crowd and a scoreboard visible from miles away.

Senior quarterback J.D. Almond said the new features will add to the Turpin atmosphere and "definitely bring excitement on game day."

day."

"A lot of recruits come to the home games and [will] see the pride we have in our program," he said.

Assistant Director of Athletics Doug Ireland said this was just one of many updates for the athletic facilities in the near future. Though enhancements are currently in the development phase, the changes will benefit all sports programs.

The facility enhancement campaign will target outdated training facilities that have not been updated since the 1970s, as well as other athletic improvements.

"These upgrades will boost community support and impact University perception," Ireland said.

Just like the scoreboard, any future renovations to the athletic facilities will be funded through private donations whether it be alumni or Demon sports fans.

The 2017 football season will be here before you can say "fork 'em," and with the reveal of the new scoreboard, staff, fans and football players are hyped and ready to win.

NSU 2017 sprint class named 12th nationally

DOUG IRELAND

NSU Sports Information Director

NATCHITOCHES – The 2017 FloTrack men's and women's sprint class NCAA top 15 rankings just announced are brimming with top brand names in collegiate sports.

But sandwiched between No. 11 LSU and No. 13 Alabama is Northwestern State at No. 12.

It's not unprecedented for the NSU program to stand among the elite in college track and field. NSU competitors have won three NCAA event championships, along with capturing 10 USA Track and Field titles, and filling three slots on USA Olympic Teams in 2000 (LaMark Carter, triple jump) and 2004 and 2008 (Kenta Bell, triple jump).

NSU's 12-member sprint signing class, announced last month, caught the attention of the expert analysts at FloTrack, recognized globally as one of the sport's primary news services. The top collegiate recruiting classes are being recognized at FloTrack.org.

Topping the sprint chart was Florida State, followed by Kentucky, USC, 2017 women's NCAA champion Oregon, 2017 men's NCAA champ Florida, Miami, Southern Mississippi, Georgia, Baylor and Arkansas in the top 10.

LSU, Northwestern State, Alabama, Texas Tech, and Ohio State completed FloTrack's list of the most talented sprint signing classes. Those are based on a ratings system developed by FloTrack ranking competitors on their

2017 best marks in the 100, 200 and 400 meter sprints.

"It's a huge testament to the young men and women we're bringing to Northwestern State," said NSU associate head coach Adam Pennington, who coaches the sprinters for the Demons and Lady Demons. "We've been able to attract them with the great tradition of track and field here, going all the way back to our 1981 NCAA champion 4x100 relay team in the days of (Joe) Delaney and (Mark) Duper, and how we have consistently produced nationallycompetitive sprinters through the years, particularly in this

"There's an exceptional culture here and a great university and community to recruit to," he said. "To be in these rankings, when every other program comes from an FBS (Football Bowl Subdivision) athletic department and all but one other are in Power 5 conferences, is very exciting since it shows we are bringing in more athletes who rank among the best in the country.

"In our sport, we're on a more even playing field with brand-name schools than in sports like football, basketball and baseball. We line up against the Southeastern Conference and Big XII teams during the season, and then we're in the same races with the ACC (Atlantic Coast) and Big Ten in the East Preliminary round. Our athletes have shown they belong on the national stage and the newcomers are definitely capable of continuing that tradition."

Among NSU's 2017 sprint recruiting class are a pair of

transfers, Michael McGruder and Desmond Mapps, who will compete as seniors for the Demons next spring. Connor Wood is the reigning British indoor national champion in the 200 meter dash.

Other highly-accomplished sprint newcomers to NSU include junior college All-Americans Widline Lageroy and Courtney Willis and Texas state Class 3A girls 400 meter champion Diana Grandos.

Headlining the deep pool of returning talent for Pennington's sprint corps are 2016 4x100 All-Americans Amir James, Micah Larkins and Ty Shilling, and Lady Demon stars De'Shalyn Jones and Natashia Jackson, who won a combined seven gold medals at the 2017 Southland Conference Outdoor Championships as NSU swept the sprints and relays.

JULY 11.2017 OPINION 7



Photo by Gage Skidmore

Trump harms U.S. relationship with Cuba

ZOE ALMARAZ

Opinion Columnist

In a speech on June 16, President Donald Trump said he is canceling Barack Obama's "completely onesided deal with Cuba," including strengthening restrictions and sanctions on Cuban travel, exports and imports.

The same day, the White House released a memorandum detailing the administration's policy changes. As stated, these changes include stronger restrictions on travel, exports and imports, as well as increasing efforts to directly support the Cuban and American people.

However, these changes only partially shift from the previous administration's policy. Newly formed embassies in both countries will continue to run. There will be direct flights and cruises to Cuba; tourists will be allowed to spend an unlimited amount of money and bring back goods they purchased there. Additionally, the economic embargo and agreements to combat drug trafficking and oil spills will remain in

Despite these minimal changes, U.S. citizens will be subjected to tighter restrictions if they decide to travel to Cuba, whether for business or leisure. There are currently 12 classifications for authorized travel which

were loosely enforced. The new policy changes will strengthen enforcement, especially the "people to people" category, which acted as a broad way for Americans to enter the

Under the new restrictions, travelers would be required to have more strict itineraries under licensed American tourism companies rather than allowing individuals to make their own schedules. These restrictions also include establishments that tourists and business people are not allowed to spend American money at due to the influence of the Cuban military, but these new travel policies will directly harm Cuban businesses.

By only allowing large travel groups, small Cuban inns, private restaurants and private taxis will not be able to serve and house all tourists. These large groups will have to stay in hotels and take buses, both of which are essentially state-run. The Cuban people will actually be the ones suffering under these regulations, not the Cuban government.

This administration claims these regulations are part of an effort to fight against the Cuban government and its tight hold on the Cuban people, but that is highly hypocritical due to the United States' relationship with countries like Saudi

Arabia and Russia.

Both countries have been found guilty of numerous human rights violations, many of which were listed as reasons for the Cuban policy. Among those are punishment of dissidents and journalists, jailing innocent people who are only suspected of crimes or disliked by the country's regime, and a strict set of laws that govern almost every move a citizen makes.

It is additionally hypocritical to claim we are fighting for a greater good because of the United States' flaws within our own criminal justice system, racial biases and an emphasis on criminalization and punishment, as the Human Rights Watch points out.

Throughout his campaign, Trump has called into question the credibility of anybody and anything that opposes him, called almost every news outlet fake except for the one that praises him, recited fake polls that favor him, and has been the subject of numerous scandals and lawsuits.

His actions have parallels to those of leaders in the previously-named countries, making this gesture futile and hypocritical while indirectly ruining Cuban livelihoods and supporting the very government these regulations are supposed to protest against.

People will die under the Better Care Reconciliation Act

MEG DENNY

Opinion Columnist

I am not a health-care policy expert. I don't understand all of the legal talk, and policy language is confusing to me. This statement is true for most working-class Americans who are busy working and providing for themselves and loved ones. Truly, a lot of us do not have the time or energy to deeply study policy that affects our day-to-day lives.

Despite this, I am urging you to call our Louisiana senators, John Kennedy and Bill Cassidy, to tell them that replacing the Affordable

Care Act with the Senate health care bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act, will be deadly for Louisianans, no matter the amendments made on the bill.

The Center for American Progress predicts that this legislation will cause 343,000 Louisianans to lose coverage by 2026. That number includes more than 188,000 who receive Medicaid.

If those numbers aren't scary – if the possibility of 188,000 people losing Medicaid in one state isn't enough to spark your interest, let's take a look at Florida: 1,269,000 people will lose Medicaid in the state.

Nationally, the Congressional Budget Report said 22 million people would lose coverage, 15 million of which are on Medicaid.

A reminder: Medicaid is a federal insurance program for low-income folks who would otherwise be unable to get medical help because of its high costs.

When Medicaid is cut or lost, those living in poverty begin to skip going to the doctor for respiratory issues, strange lumps found on the body or even broken hones

In short, if we pass the Better Care Reconciliation Act, preventable deaths will become inevitable deaths because we cut access to health care.

And I do want to keep this short. Like many

If we pass the

Better Care

Reconciliation

Act, preventable

deaths will

become inevitable

deaths because

we cut access to

health care.

of you, I'm exhausted from political debates that pop up everywhere I turn. I'm just exhausted.

Maybe that's why I can barely find the passion to write this piece at all. In a Huffington Post article (I know, I know), Kayla

Chadwick said it perfectly:
"I can't debate someone
into caring about what
happens to their fellow
human beings."

So, if you do find yourself caring about your fellow humans like I do, I need you to call your U.S. senators.

If not us, then who? It must be us.

You may think that your voice won't matter to them, but Sen. Cassidy is already on the fence about voting in favor of the new plan. He is worried about its effect on Louisianans, and he should be. It's up to us to push him to vote against it.



JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

If you haven't read the books, you have probably watched at least one of the movies during a Freeform marathon or know which Hogwarts house you would be sorted into. If you haven't done any of those, chances are you still recognize the small kid with the glasses and lightning scar.

Tread carefully, friends, for there may be spoilers ahead.

J.K. Rowling published Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in the United Kingdom on June 26, 1997, making this year its 20th birthday; the title was later changed for U.S. publishing to Sorcerer's Stone to avoid possible confusion in associating the children's book with philosophy.

Since its debut, the Harry Potter franchise – which includes seven books, eight movies and two theme parks – has amassed over \$30 billion dollars, according to CNBC. It also places second in the highest-grossing movie franchises of all time behind the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Recent additions to Rowling's Wizarding World include the first installation of the Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them series with the second movie in the series set to premiere in 2018. Rowling, along with playwright Jack Thorne, also penned a new story for the stage in 2016 called Harry Potter and the Cursed Child which follows Harry and other characters into adulthood where the epilogue of Deathly Hallows leaves off.

Cursed Child has sparked controversy in the fan community known as Potterheads; some argue the play does not count as canon since Rowling herself did not technically write it. As someone who had the privilege to see the play in London, I can say that although I may not agree with some of the content, the production is staged beautifully.

Though the script of the play was published worldwide, good news for fans trying to get tickets to the West End production came when it was announced the play will premiere on Broadway in New York City in April 2018. Anyone available for a road trip?

Simply stated, Harry Potter has not only influenced a generation, but it has made its mark in popular culture.

Though the last book was released in 2007 and the last movie premiered in 2009, the series continues to live on in numerous forms.

Harry's adventures starting as a scraggly 11-year-old orphan coming into his own are read to children by parents as bedtime stories, placed on school summer reading lists, written about by scholars, discussed by prominent YouTube personalities, and even included as college courses by select universities.

For some, the series lives as an enjoyable read or a movie marathon challenge. For others, it is treasured memories of book releases, movie premieres, drawnon lightning scars and handmade costumes of favorite characters.

It is creating an entire music genre called wrock, short for "wizard rock," including bands such as the DeGeorge brothers of Harry and the Potters who coined the term in the early 2000s, Draco and the Malfoys and Tonks and the Aurors, among numerous other groups.

MTV even published an article in 2015 with more than enough music to keep you wrocking through the night,

though it fails to mention one of my own personal favorite bands, Oliver Boyd and the Remembralls.

The movies feature a music score as iconic as the Star Wars theme by the same composer, John Williams, and the series inspired a worldwide sport played across college campuses, including our very own NSU Demon Quidditch team.

It inspires charity and activism through organizations like The Harry Potter Alliance that seeks to "[change] the world by making activism accessible through the power of story." Campaigns by the alliance focus on equality, literacy and human rights across the world; a major outcome of one campaign, "Not In Harry's Name," resulted in the switch by Warner Bros. to use all Fair Trade chocolate in their products instead of chocolate associated with child slavery.

It even inspires parodies such as "A Very Potter Musical" and the singing puppets of The Potter Puppet Pals, of which you may recognize "The Mysterious Ticking Noise" with over 174 million views on Youtube since it was uploaded in 2007.

Though it may take a moment of realization, kids entering college now have never known a world without "The Boy Who Lived." Many of our lives would be different without the series; as Harry, Hermione and Ron grew up, so did we.

The impact of the series goes beyond just the nostalgia factor though. Recent psychological studies have even shown that reading Harry Potter "[develops] greater empathy and tolerance."

This series is not just about the money it has made but values ingrained within both the books and movies: love, friendship, kindness and courage, among others. Harry Potter is as much an enjoyable tale as it is a teaching method and influence upon the world.

If you are one of those seemingly rare people who has never cracked open a Harry Potter book or watched one of the movies, my suggestion is to give this story a chance. You may be inspired to start a local chapter of The Harry Potter Alliance or even write a piece of fan fiction; whatever floats your boat! Just remember, it's levi-O-sah, not levios-A.



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ECURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Varnado not completely finished for move-in day

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) students finally got the first look at their newly-renovated dorms during campus move-in on Aug. 19. Varnado Hall reopened in time for student move-in, but parts of the building were still under construction and blocked off from students.

Varnado was closed for the entire 2016-2017 school year to allow the space to be turned into a CAPA living-learning center complete with sound-proof practice rooms on each floor, a grand piano and a kitchen for catering future events. It was expected to be completed in time for fall 2017 move-in.

Upon entering the genderseparated dormitory hallways, excited CAPA students were seen readying their rooms for the first day of classes.

Tara Lane and Monique Basse, freshman theatre majors, were paired together in the dorm. They both are excited for the experiences bound to come when living around other arts students.

"I am sure it will be really amazing living around other people in the arts because it has always been a big part of my life," Lane said.

"The art atmosphere, definitely [will be the best part]," Basse echoed. "The people here are probably going to be very interesting."

Among the crowd of residents were some non-traditional CAPA members, such as sophomore transfer Jacob Bartels. He is living in Varnado as an English major with a concentration in film studies.

"I was expecting it to be very small freshman housing," he said. "And I am actually very pleasantly surprised that the size is quite accommodating. I was expecting it to be a little hole-in-the-wall type room, but it is actually quite nice. Only thing: the closets are a bit confusing."

It was obvious that the unfinished construction had

not hampered the move-in day excitement, but half-complete work was still very much evident as students entered the first week of classes.

The only bathroom on the main floor in the girls' dormitory was not available for use, with an 'Under Maintenance' sign blocking the entrance. At the end of each hallway was a door to access the central part of the building, which was decorated with caution tape to keep students and parents away.

Attempts to reach the basement and main section of Varnado resulted in locked doors, more caution tape, scattered furniture and half-opened boxes.

IKEA was responsible for supplying the furniture for the common areas and offices, but supplies did not arrive until Aug. 21. The completely-finished Varnado Hall will be available soon, and CAPA students can then start to enjoy all of the upgraded dorm's new amenities.



SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

SGA President Otha "Tre" Nelson said SGA will release a statement regarding tropical storm Harvey and the damage inflicted on areas across Texas and Louisiana.

SB.F.2017-01 was approved last week by the senate and will be signed into legislation Aug. 29. The bill proposed to amend Article III Section 4 of the SGA Election Code regarding the voting process for Mr. and Miss NSU and the voting process for student body elections in Article VI Section 1.

The Senate confirmed six student appointments to the election board committee for homecoming.

Treasurer Aly Jacobs said three applications were submitted to the Organizational Relief Fund (ORF) and approved.

The Investiture of the Nineteenth President of NSU will occur Sept. 15 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium at 11 a.m. A reception will immediately follow at the Arnold R. Kilpatrick President's Residence from 1-3 p.m.

The NSU Alumni Foundation is supplying transportation to the LA Tech football game on Sept. 2. Students can purchase a \$30 ticket which includes bus transportation, a student tailgate and entrance to the game.

Sen. Cherish Wilson requested Financial Aid remain open past 12 p.m. on Fridays during the first weeks of the semester.

Sen. Tyler Wright said Sigma Nu Fraternity will host a relief drive to benefit areas affected by tropical storm Harvey.

Harvey.
Tom Rinaldi, author and ESPN contributor, will speak Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium as part of the Demon Days itinerary.

Several senators repeatedly expressed their concern about tropical storm Harvey. One senator asked "what is SGA [going to do] to help Houston?"

Next week's SGA meeting has been cancelled in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Campus leaders respond to Charlottesville

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

The Noi

The Northwestern State University Student Government Association issued a statement on Aug. 13 vocalizing that "[SGA] stands... against the acts of hatred, bigotry, and violence" in response to events in Charlottesville, Virginia.

SGA President Otha "Tre"

SGA President Otha "Tre" Nelson said the organization issued the statement to reassure the community of their policies and support of inclusivity.

"[This is] an issue that is relevant, and we need to make sure we're on our toes," he said.

NSU's policies are located in the Student Handbook, which includes the Notice of Non-Discrimination and Student Code of Conduct. The Classroom Civility Statement which prefaces the code of conduct is also required on course syllabi.

The Notice of Non-Discrimination states the following: "The University is committed to equal opportunity for student

success... [and] does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, [or] disability..."

University President Dr. Chris Maggio said NSU agrees "one hundred percent" with Nelson's statement and that diversity is what makes this university strong.

"We have a wonderful culture here at Northwestern... I know we have a caring university that respects all people and wants to see everybody succeed," he said.

Although Charlottesville is more than 1,000 miles away from Natchitoches, controversy about Confederate statue removal is nothing new to Louisiana. Debates have taken place in cities from Shreveport to New Orleans, resulting in the removal of monuments from several areas.

"Something like [the protests in Charlottesville] could conceivably happen [here], and in the event that we do have a group protesting on campus, we've taken measures on how to get the student body

informed and how to make sure [the situation] doesn't escalate," Nelson said. NSU's Policy on Public

Assembly Speech, and Demonstrations outlines the university's stance on circumstances such which must be in manner. The protests, peaceful in manner. policy also states that "no harmful acts, destruction or defacement of property, physical assaults or threats thereof" are permitted.

Nelson said SGA will be active in ensuring the protection and success of all students.

"We [will] keep supporting different social groups that are actively supporting equality," he said. "In the event that we do see something spark up... we will actively pursue that and not just sit back."

Maggio also emphasized the importance of working through any situation and talking freely about all issues.

"My philosophy is open communication," he said. "We don't always have to agree... but [we have to have] constructive dialogue, not rhetoric." AUGUST 30. 2017

Folice Blotter Four historic trees chopped

August 21

Resisting Arrest 0002 hours 200 Sam Sibley Dr. Arrest made

Vehicle Burglary 1226 hours Caddo Hall Parking Lot

Hit and Run 1547 hours 354 Caspari St.

Hit and Run 1822 hours 315 Caspari St.

August 22

Forgery 1329 hours St. Denis Hall

Hit and Run 1528 hours University Place II

1552 hours University Place II Phone recovered

Theft of Bicycle 1921 hours 450 Caspari St.

August 23

Criminal Damage to Property 0648 hours 135 Sam Sibley Dr. Arrest made

Theft of Bicycle 0927 hours WRAC

Hit and Run 1135 hours 165 Sam Sibley Dr.

August 24

Hit and Run 1107 hours Parking Lot 25

August 25

Disturbance 2308 hours ROTC

August 27

0359 hours 300 South Jefferson St. ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

Renovations of Varnado Hall seem to have reached an exterior end, but they occurred not without casualty; three healthy trees that once surrounded the building's west wing are now kaput.

An additional tree in front of Russell Hall was cut down in July due to storm damage, bringing the tally up to four.

All of these were sitting on land in Northwestern State's historic district, placed on the national register in June 2014. While this register does not include landscape features, several members of the Trees For Natchitoches Facebook group expressed concern for their removal.

NSU consulted with Bynog's Tree Service for the examination and later removal of the Russell tree. The company has a Louisiana-licensed arborist on staff, Hamilton Bynog, but could not be reached for comment.

In a statement on the Northwestern State Student Concerns Facebook group, Vice President for University Affairs Dr. Marcus Jones said the following: "While the arborist was removing the limb in the water oak tree at Russell Hall, he noticed more damage than what could be seen from the ground. The storm, of several weeks ago, had caused several fractures and splits in the tree that were not visible [from] the ground."

A 12-14 foot live oak will replace the lost tree, according to Jones.

"It is the general policy of grounds department to only remove trees when they can't be saved and to replace them with other native trees," he said. Gil Gilson, capital outlay and special projects coordinator at NSU, echoed this sentiment.

The three trees outside Varnado posed immediate threat, but the housing contractor, Campus Living Villages, decided to remove them to protect the



Photo reproduced with permission

Two loblolly pines are removed along the west wing of Varnado Hall. These trees were older than Varnado, which opened in 1939.

building's integrity along with its tenants and visitors.

Rob Archibald, president for capital projects at the company, said they did not engage an arborist for consultation. Instead, Xtreme Tree Service completed this task.

Two of the trees, both loblolly pines, were located on the dorm's north side along the west wing and leaned toward the building. Evidence of them dates back to at least 1938, a year before Varnado's opening.

"Our concern with the [two pines] was not that they were about to fall over, but that if they did in the future, whatever the cause, the result would be catastrophic to the property and may have caused injury to staff, residents or visitors," Archibald said.

A water oak adjacent to the building's east wing, however, was left standing.

According to Smith, historical landscape architect at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), the contractor may want to have this tree evaluated by a certified arborist due to its close

proximity to the building and what appears to be a weak trunk union - a potential hazard.

She also pointed out a number of hanging dead branches, "widow or makers," in trees on side. Varnado's north Removing these would prevent them from falling and potentially injuring pedestrians.

The final tree in question, a deodar cedar, was located approximately a dozen feet away from the west end of Varnado. It allegedly caused mold due to the shade it created on that side of the building.

"This tree was removed to prevent [further mold damage] from occurring in the future and to add to the visibility around this entry/exit of the building," Archibald said.

Dr. Mary Striegel, a chemist who works at the NCPTT, listed several possible causes of mold to building interiors but said she would be "very skeptical" to believe the cedar was the cause. The NCPTT, a branch of the National Park Service, is coincidentally located

dozens of feet from Varnado in Lee Nelson Hall.

"Most preservation professionals would say [interior mold] would be unlikely to be caused by a tree that is 12 feet away from the building," she said.

Assistant to the Provost Jennifer Kelly acknowledged neither Campus Living Villages nor the university consulted with a chemist to test the mold and determine if the cedar was indeed the culprit.

Centers for Disease Control and and Prevention lists the following as causes of dampness that lead to mold inside buildings: leaking pipes, rainwater intrusion and excessive humidity not corrected by air conditioning.

Jones said he and Stephanie Dyjack, general manager for Campus Living Villages at NSU, discussed a course of action to receive public input before any future changes are made to Varnado's landscape. The contractor will also submit a landscaping plan proposing new trees to replace the ones that were removed, not necessarily in the same place but near the building.

AUGUST 30. 2017

4 FEATURE

The impact of

COACH BLACK



AUGUST 30.2017



"Work hard, have fun and always be proud to be a Demon"

HOLLY JENKINS Reporter

"Work hard, have fun and always be proud to be a Demon." This is the advice Coach Black gives to student athletes new and old.

Born Harris Wilson Jr., Coach Black was nicknamed after a duckling given to him by his father. Although not an official coach at NSU, he lives his dream of coaching every day and is widely considered one of the university's biggest supporters. According to a CBS feature on Black, he was still a high school student when he started work at NSU.

'One day Coach Black showed up at [then-coach] Sam Goodwin's office and asked to be put to work," CBS said. "Goodwin was about to have a staff meeting. He sized up Black, told him to sit by the door and make sure nobody barged in. Black did his job and has been coming back ever since. That was 1995."

Known by his colleagues as the assistant head coach for all sports, Black spends his days mentoring his coworkers and student athletes. He can be found at practices, games and any sporting event in between. He sometimes wakes up at 5:55 a.m. and stays at work until 10 p.m.

'He's always ready to give support when needed," said Doug Ireland, sports information director. "Even after a team loss, he stays positive and is there to tell the team, 'it's ok, we'll just work harder for next time."

During baseball season, Black operates the scoreboard, which his coworkers have deemed the "black board."

Despite the long hours, Black insists his job is easy.

According to Ireland, Black is known for his sharp memory. Ireland says he knows everyone in his life not only by name but also by birthday and birthplace.

It is his memory, in fact, that first impressed Goodwin in 1995. According to CBS, he knows statistics for the Southland Conference and can relay them back without having to search the internet.

His memory extends much further than that, though. Black once told then-assistant Bradley Peveto his license plate number without ever having to go outside to check Peveto's car.

"He's got an intelligence that knows no boundaries," Ireland said. though."

July 15 at around 11 p.m., Black awoke to find his home in flames. After escaping, he realized his 4-year-old niece and mother were still trapped inside and went back in to save them. Black and his family made way through a back window without serious injuries but lost nearly all of their belongings.

Following the fire, the Natchitoches community rallied in support of the family by donating clothes and other necessities and contributing to a GoFundMe account managed by the Demons Unlimited Foundation. The GoFundMe, which initially had a goal of \$10,000, raised over \$15,000 in the first 24 hours. After 72 hours, it had raised over \$25,000 and by the end of the month reached a staggering \$40,000.

Weeks after the fire, Black endured another tragedy when his mother died suddenly of an unexpected

Ireland said Black has not let any of the recent trials he has faced bring him down. He continues coming to work every day.

"Coach Black is so positive and fun-loving," Ireland said.

"He doesn't let it go to his head constantly pokes fun at everyone to make them smile. His kindness is especially evident after facing trauma; he is still the same kind, hard-working person and athletics supporter."

Black is known for his tendency to "fire" people at work, Ireland laughs. Although he does so jokingly, he always holds his coworkers accountable for their actions, encouraging them to be their best.

"He has the largest network of anyone on campus," Ireland said.
"Hang around him for just a few hours, and you'll notice the constant buzzing of his phone or the number of greetings given to him by anyone he passes.'

NSU athletes call Black their "GLC," or "Good Luck Charm." Black says his favorite memories are of the pride he feels when NSU wins a game.

Likewise, Ireland attributes much of their success to Black; "I don't know how we would get through the week without him," he said.

April 2016 marked 20 years Black has been at NSU and 40 years since his birth. He spent his birthday in Hammond at a Demon Softball game.

6 ARTS&LIVING

Demon Days Calender

Wednesday, August 30

The Current Sauce First Issue Release Party

11 a.m.- 1p.m. Student Union Lobby

Welcome Reception for International Students

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Russel Hall Natchitoches room

Speed Friending

8:30 p.m. Baptist College Ministry

Thursday, August 31

Fraternity Bid Day

5:30 Russel Hall

BCM Walleyball & Desserts

7:30 - 9 p.m.

T-Shirt Swap

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Kyser Brickway

IFC Bid Day

12:30 p.m. Normal Hill

Saturday, September 2

NSU Demons Road Trip & Tailgate Party at Louisiana Tech University

6:30 p.m. Ruston, LA

Tuesday, September 5

Get the Inside Scoop of Sority Life

4 - 6 p.m. Iberville Green

Let's Get Frank

6 p.m. Student Union Cane River Room

NSU Rowing Informational Meeting

7:30 p.m. Student Union Ball Room

Freshaman at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry

8:30 p.m. Baptit Collegiate Ministry
Vist, nsula.edu/fye/demondays/, for a full calender
of events



The Eyes of Argus

KRISTA PARKER

Unveiled- Argus 2004

a haunting echo from long ago captures the familiar sound of wind chimes dancing close and a sharp note played on a piano is drawn out by the damper pedal. everything near is suddenly distant children laughing, playing kickball or

jumping rope
it's almost slow.
the wind is almost seen
in the trees and leaves,
it feels like October and it looks
more like childhood.
the smell of fire is burning fallen dreams...
i mean leaves, fallen leaves
that are raked into neat piles resembling castles
waiting to be conquered by wind or a child
as a sharp, high note plays and
sadness leaks out of a memory from
long ago.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu if you are interested in getting involved with Argus, NSU's literary and arts magazine.



Most universities' welcome week festivities last only one week, but individual groups at NSU put together a full month of activities for new and retu

Health Services to host informational session

SAMANTHA MAIETTE Reporter

NSU Health Services is hosting "Let's Get Frank" Sept. 5 to inform the Northwestern State University community on the importance of relationships, pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection education. The presentation will be in the Cane River Room of the Student Union at 6 p.m.

"We want to have a real, honest and open conversation about things we don't normally talk about," said Stephanie Campbell, director of health services.

Intimacy is one of those subjects, both in romantic and platonic relationships. However, Campbell wants to touch upon more than just the physical aspect of intimacy; she plans to discuss all 11 characteristics involved.

Through the presentation, Campbell wants to help students recognize difference between healthy

and toxic relationships and which relationships "have the potential to improve and which ones would be best to not continue."

Relationships are important part of most people's lives, but understanding one's needs and desires affects how relationships work out.

"Let's Get Frank" also aims to educate students about sexuality and self care. Part of this includes pregnancy prevention and education.

Campbell said she has seen the pregnancy rate on campus increase in the past couple of years. In response to this increase, Health Services has made efforts to inform students of their options and various actions to take, which includes different forms of education and what resources are available for student use both on and off campus.

"In my interactions with students, most tend to drop out due to pregnancy, so retention is a big effort," Campbell said. "It's not impossible to

graduate with a small child, but it is very difficult."

Lastly, Health Services present information STI prevention and appropriate courses of action following infection along with information on Title IX and what to do in cases of sexual misconduct.

Campbell believes NSU community is accepting of sexual education and expanding upon on their preexisting knowledge.

"I don't want to embarrass anyone, but I do want to be very direct and very open about the subject," she said. "I want for the students who attend [the presentation] to feel like they're welcome to ask questions, and if they're not comfortable asking questions in that setting, they can come to the clinic, and we'll be happy to talk to them."

Health Services is located at 315 Caspari St. next to the campus police station. More information is available at healthservices.nsula.edu

Resources for domestic violence prevention

LEXI ANTOON

Reporter

Louisiana has one of the highest rates for domestic violence-related homicides, and NSU Director of Student Advocacy Lori LeBlanc wants to do something about it.

LeBlanc ensures victims and bystanders of domestic violence are provided the aid necessary through confidential advisers student advocates. stresses the importance of awareness, prevention and support. LeBlanc and the rest of her student activists are committed to making NSU a safe and welcoming campus.

Demons Support Demons Co-President Ashlyn Guidry holds the issue of domestic violence close to her heart.

"All of us have either experienced domestic violence as a victim or bystander," Guidry says.

Guidry dedicates her time to ensuring NSU students have a safe place to be heard. She encourages faculty and

students to speak out against violence domestic believes that "as a university, we do not have to say yes to this type of behaviour."

United The Department of Justice defines domestic violence as "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner."

Domestic violence does not discriminate on the bases of gender, race or sexual orientation and does not always refer to physical abuse. It also can include subtle controlling behavior, such as isolating or degrading another individual.

"Domestic violence is a huge issue in [Louisiana], and I see a great need to make students aware," LeBlanc said.

Although Title IX is associated primarily with sexual misconduct, LeBlanc says domestic violence is also addressed.

Through Title IX, students have access to a strong support system that is dedicated to the emotional and physical health of all students. If an individual chooses to file criminal charges, advisers are on hand to assist during the legal process.

If an incident is reported and legal action is taken, all people involved have access to health and wellbeing counseling along with residence and academic assistance and guidance.

The objective is to further educate students so early signs of domestic violence are identified and reported as soon as possible. Students are encouraged to get involved and discuss the issue and can do so with groups on campus such as Demons Support Demons and through the outreach programs Not Alone and It's On Us, for example.

If anyone wishes to report an incident, NSU offers a 24-hour confidential adviser hotline at (318) 357-5431.



Photos by Justin Burr and Sean McGraw

8 SPORTS AUGUST 30.2017



One more shot

Latham begins her final soccer season with the Lady Demons

SAMANTHA MAIETTE *Reporter*

Flying forward, a ball makes contact with gloved hands. Years of experience and training has led to quick instincts and cat-like reflexes. The crowd cheers at the stop and the home team lets out a sigh of relief, knowing their goalkeeper has their back.

Alex Latham is currently playing her fourth and final season as Northwestern State University's goalkeeper after an impressive 2016 season.

Latham received Southland Conference Goalkeeper of the Year honors, a spot on the All-Academic First Team and four-time Goalkeeper of the Week, just in her 2016 season. She was additionally placed on the 2017 preseason All-Southland Conference First Team.

Latham started her soccer career later than most of her teammates after trying her hand at almost every single sport

"I randomly told my mom one day when I was 10 that I

wanted to play soccer," she said. "So I showed up to a competitive team tryout – not a recreational one where most people begin – asked if they were looking for any particular position, and they said they needed a goalie, so that's how I got started."

The Florida-raised athlete was searching for a new experience after graduating high school. Before signing with NSU, Latham looked at colleges in Florida, South Carolina, Texas and Louisiana.

"We were really lucky to sign her," said George Van Linder, head coach for soccer. "She was already playing at such a high level [and] we felt like she would feel comfortable playing here at NSU."

Latham said she chose NSU because she "clicked" more with the team compared to the other schools she toured.

"The people here were so nice and welcoming, and I liked the small town feel," she said. "I was really interested in going somewhere I didn't really know anyone and getting to know the people."

Latham's freshman year was a constant battle with the other goalkeepers on the team – something she said she was not quite used to. During the season, she was thrown into the starting goalkeeper position after the other goalkeepers were out due to injuries.

"Sometimes I felt like I didn't earn it, but during my sophomore year, I got my first real playing time. The other goalkeeper and I split every game; she would play the first half, and I would play the second half," Latham said.

second half," Latham said.

It wasn't until her junior year that she earned the starting spot.

Latham is in charge of not just denying the other team's shots but also making sure the Demon defense is organized and that communication is maintained on the field.

"Knowing that your teammates trust you is the best feeling in the world. Knowing that if a ball gets by, they're like 'we're working hard to get back, but Alex has got this;

we're not worried about it," she said.

Latham and Van Linder both consider her to be a good role model on and off the field.

"I think she's someone NSU should be proud of: a great student in the classroom with a high grade point average, out there training year round and representing NSU," Van Linder said. "She is considered by a lot of the people in this part of the country as one of the top goalkeepers."

Van Linder said Latham tries to help younger goalkeepers by inspiring confidence since a bad day can sometimes lead to poor performance.

"I consider myself a lead-byexample type of person," she said. "I don't consider myself to be super vocal because I am in my head a lot... [but] I try to be really positive even if I am having a bad day."

While Latham tries to set a good example and help her fellow teammates, she finds her inspiration through her parents.

"My parents were always the first people to drive me where I needed to go. At the start of my sophomore year of high school I switched to a different competitive team to be seen more, but the team was an hour and a half away," Latham said. "So the fact that they were willing to drop everything to take me where I needed to go [and] they were always more than willing meant a lot."

Knowing that this is her last year upsets Latham, but representing NSU and playing soccer for the Lady Demons is "indescribable" for her.

"I'll probably be crying on Senior Night," she said.

"[Alex is] another shining light for NSU, and that's something we like about her. She's going to be one of those players that once she's gone we'll appreciate her even more," Van Linder said.

Watch Latham in action at the Demon Soccer Complex during home games. Visit nsudemons.com for the full athletic schedule.

Former Demons impress LA Rams

Reporter

Former Demon football players De'Mard Llorens and Shakier Ryan got their first taste of the NFL. They made the then-89-player roster for the Los Angeles Rams as free agents following the rookie minicamp in May 2017.

The two joined former Demons offensive tackle Pace Murphy and defensive line coach Bill Johnson.

Llorens and Ryan first sparked interest from the LA Rams with their performances at NSU's Pro Day on March 22. They are noted as two of the most productive players in Demon football history.

Natchitoches-native running back Llorens is ranked tenth in NSU athletic history with 2,381 rushing yards and 180 career points. He was named an All-Southland Conference First Team running back during his undergraduate football career.

When the team was reduced down to the final 53-player roster, Llorens did not make the cut. Though he will not play for the Rams, he said signing with them, however brief, was an



FILE - Running back De'Mard Llorens played from 2013-2017 for the Demons.

amazing experience.

"Just because you were cut doesn't mean you weren't good enough; you just didn't fit the team's needs," Llorens said.

"It's a luck thing," he said. "You have to find your perfect spot. First in the team of 90 and then

that team gets cut to 53 – it's about finding the spot that works for you."

Llorens said he is thankful for his time at NSU and specifically for Coach Jay Thomas.

"The way [Thomas] constructs and handles his business as far as the

program and meetings – it prepared me a lot to have a smooth transition into being a pro. He taught us be pros," Llorens said.

NSU, Ryan made his own mark on Demon football history by being named honorable mention Alltobe pros," Llorens said.

Ryan will play as a wide receiver with the LA Rams this year after making it onto the 53-man roster.

As a punt returner for

Photo by Gary Hardamon

mark on Demon football history by being named honorable mention All-Southland Conference in fall 2016. He finished second overall in the Southland Conference with a 10.1 punt return average.

Lady Demons set for midweek match at Alcorn State

DREW BARTLETT

Sports Information Graduate Assistant

NORMAN, Mississippi – The Northwestern State volleyball team begins a stretch of four matches in four days with a midweek trip to face Alcorn State on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

This past weekend, the Lady Demons traveled to Norman, Oklahoma, to partake in the NIKE Invitational against high level-competitors in Colorado, Oklahoma and Seton Hall. NSU dropped the three matches, but showed improvement over the opening weekend a year ago.

In 2016, NSU opened the season with a tournament at TCU, in which the Lady Demons suffered three 3-0 sweeps to North Carolina State, Arkansas State and

Boise State.

"I was pleased with last year and I'm even more pleased and happy about this weekend," third-year head coach Sean Kiracofe said. "We really competed well with some tough teams. We had positions and individuals that really produced great numbers.

"The goal is to be able to take that and carry it over into next weekend and be able to continue to play at that high level."

Alcorn (0-4) faced Southland Conference member University of New Orleans in each team's season opener. The Privateers took the match 3-0.

Outside hitter Reagan Rogers had a strong showing in Oklahoma, picking up 32 kills and five aces en route to all-tournament team honors. "To go out against the competition that we had this last weekend and to really produce at a high level and a consistent level was great to see from her," Kiracofe said.

The Lady Demons will have a day off on Thursday before returning to action at the Troy Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

Stay up to date on all Lady Demons action this season on Twitter @NSUdemonsVB. 10 OPINION AUGUST 30.2017 |

We will report on student crime



Photo by: Sarah Hill

ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

The Current Sauce has not always reported on student crime in recent years. However, the decisions of past editors to report or not to report on that issue is entirely their own for reasons I do not know.

I can only speak for myself: during my term as the editor of this newspaper, we will report on major student crimes whenever we learn about them.

The decisions student organization leaders make now and forever should be logic-based, not based on the history of the organization and its past decisions.

This is not a decision I made alone. Members of our editorial board and our advisers support us covering student crime.

So what does this mean for NSU students?

Quite simply, don't commit crimes and later get charged for them.

Furthermore, understand that when you are charged with crime, potential employers will find out when they are conducting background checks, and no amount of press coverage is going to change that.

If you don't like this, or if you ever have questions or comments about the contents of this newspaper, I invite you to send a letter to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com and indicate if you would like it to be published.

We're not out to get you; we're here to report.

Student survivors need support, not the court

MEG DENNY Opinion Columnist

Out of the one in five women who experience some form of sexual assault during college, only 10 percent report the incident, yet Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos may soon discourage survivors even further from engaging in the reporting process.

On July 13, DeVos made it clear to survivors that she would give men's rights activists a national platform to share their denial of rape culture when she met with National Coalition for Men Carolinas, an organization known for shaming survivors who come forward.

DeVos met with multiple complainants and respondents that day to begin her work to undermine the Obama administration's improvements to Title IX, a federal law regarding sex discrimination at universities and colleges.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights released a Dear Colleague Letter that would drastically improve Title IX processes for student survivors. The

letter stated that sexual assault caused a hostile work environment for students. Therefore, accusations of assault could be investigated by the university, separately from the courts, and sanctions could be issued by the university based on the evidence found.

As a result, universities began to sanction students found responsible while protecting the privacy of the survivor. Now, if a student is sexually assaulted by a peer and does not wish to engage in an off-campus criminal justice system, they may still ask a university to investigate and sanction the perpetrator.

This was a life-changing letter for student survivors. Engaging with an assaulter in the court system is terrifying, but so is running into them in the halls before you have your next biology class. This trapped state of a student survivor often causes depression, fear and may ultimately lead to dropping

Now that universities are encouraged to investigate, these institutions have a responsibility to protect the survivor by suspending or expelling the accused, or by moving the accused to a

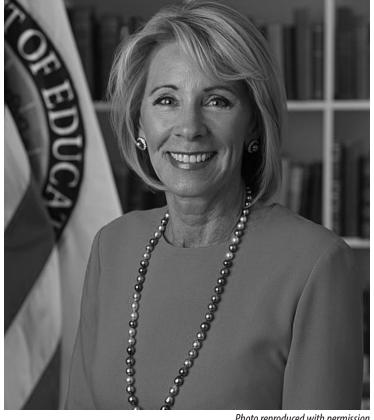


Photo reproduced with permission

different dorm building and into different classes. It's a radical idea: there are now ways to protect a survivor without making them engage in a court system that often mistreats or fails them.

DeVos, however, is looking to get rid of this process. With her comments on the infallibility of due process, it is clear she believes the justice system is the only entity that can properly sanction a student assaulter.

Make no mistake. The Obama-era improvements to Title IX are not perfect, but what DeVos is suggesting is a dangerous step in the wrong

direction. Without a safe and confidential reporting process in our universities and colleges, survivors will go back into hiding.

The Department of Education is taking public comments regarding its current regulations (including Title IX law) until August 21. It is crucial that we ask DeVos and the Department of Education to strengthen the Dear Colleague Letter of 2011, instead of tearing it down.

Read more about the dangers of undermining the 2011 letter from the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

What makes Charlottesville special?

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

Nice, Berlin, London, Stockholm, Barcelona... Charlottesville.

Vehicles were used in each of these cities to attack innocent people, resulting in lost lives and injuries. While five of the six have been labeled as acts of terrorism by political leaders and mass media, one stands out.

It baffles me.

Charlottesville was not the first, nor will it likely be the last, occurrence of domestic terrorism in the United States. While the man who purposefully drove into the crowd in Charlottesville may

not have had what some may regard as "traditional" ties to terrorism - as in, he was a white adolescent male and not associated with ISIS/Daesh - rightwing terrorism is STILL TERRORISM.

Why does the U.S. have trouble labeling attacks as domestic terrorism? Why did our fearless orange leader only denounce white supremacy after facing backlash from his first "violence on many sides" speech?

Trump stated in a press conference on Aug. 14, "racism is evil, [and] those who cause violence in its name are criminals

and thugs, including the KKK, neo Nazis, white supremacists and other hate groups..." One day later, he defended his original remarks from Aug. 12, again saying there "is blame on both sides," refusing to call James Fields Jr.'s actions terroristic in nature.

Section 802 of the USA PATRIOT Act defines domestic terrorism as the following:

"(A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State; (B) appear to be intended – (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population... and (C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States."

By this definition, there is no question as to whether or not Heather Heyer's death resulted from an act of terror.

Trump has only denounced terrorism if it has involved someone with more melanin in their skin. It's time for the U.S. to look in the mirror and realize that we have homegrown problems. It's time for our leaders to take responsibility and be proactive against acts of hate, and that includes categorizing factions of the alt-right as terrorist groups. AUGUST 30.2017 OPINION 11

Is white supremacy making a return?

ZOE ALMARAZOpnion Columnist

White supremacy is not a new concept when it comes to the United States.

It is commonly known that many Founding Fathers were slave owners. These men bought and sold black people to build structures, tend to crops and be servants. Despite writing about how all men are created equal, black and native people were considered subservient and beneath white men.

The U.S. was founded by white men who brutally beat and sometimes murdered people they kept as slaves. Out of the first 12 presidents, only two never owned slaves.

In fact, two of the most known and talked about presidents, Jefferson and Jackson, owned multitudes of slaves that were mistreated and abused. According to the Washington Post, Jackson produced an ad offering extra money per lashings on returned slaves, highlighting his cruel and violent treatment of them.

Despite outright criticism of the slave trade, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and others actively participated in the enslavement of people and very reluctantly, if at all, freed their slaves. This beginning set the tone of racial relations in the U.S.

Over the years, the divide between racial groups deepened, even after strides forward. When slavery was outlawed, the southern states seceded in order to continue the oppression and systematic enslavement of those they deemed inferior. When black people became more outspoken and involved in society, laws were passed to exclude and imprison them.

During the Jim Crow era, several racist groups started to show themselves, such as the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. These groups sought to actively murder and intimidate



Photo by Anthony Crider

black people, respectively. The United Daughters of the Confederacy would buy Confederate monuments for smaller towns as a way of intimidating black people from participating in society and government institutions.

This happened again in the Civil Rights era. More statues were erected, and the government actively tried to silence black protesters. Marches, sit ins and peaceful demonstrations were met with violence from white communities and the police. When the Black Panther party bought guns for self protection, the president and the government cracked down on gun-control laws. They also illegally surveilled leaders of black rights groups, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a group known for fighting against prejudice and bigotry, created a map of all Confederate monuments. The map shows a spike between the 1890s and 1920s and another during the 1950s and '60s, discrediting the idea that these were erected for historical value.

White supremacists' actions are not limited to black people though. Native Americans have had their land, rights and lives taken from them. Latino and Hispanic people are highly incarcerated for minor crimes. Synagogues and Iewish businesses have been vandalized and destroyed. Non-white and non-Christian people are threatened and attacked by not only individuals but also the institutions those individuals created and thrive

White people have benefited from white supremacy for so long that most do not see how modernday Nazis function. To white people, it's a question of freedom of speech and preserving history. They don't understand the "altright" neo-Nazis are actively calling for the genocide and extermination of non-white people, and that their preservation of history is a thinly-veiled attempt at keeping racist effigies around to continue the intimidation and silencing of other racial groups.

By saying both sides are equally wrong or that people fighting against the rise of fascism are terrorists, the fascists can keep doing what they're doing.

The United Nations
Committee on the
Elimination of Racial
Discrimination (CERD)
spoke out against statements
made by the president in
response to Charlottesville.
Committee chairperson
Anastasia Crickley stated in
an interview with Al Jazeera
that she was horrified at the
display of slurs, chants and
salutes that are "promoting

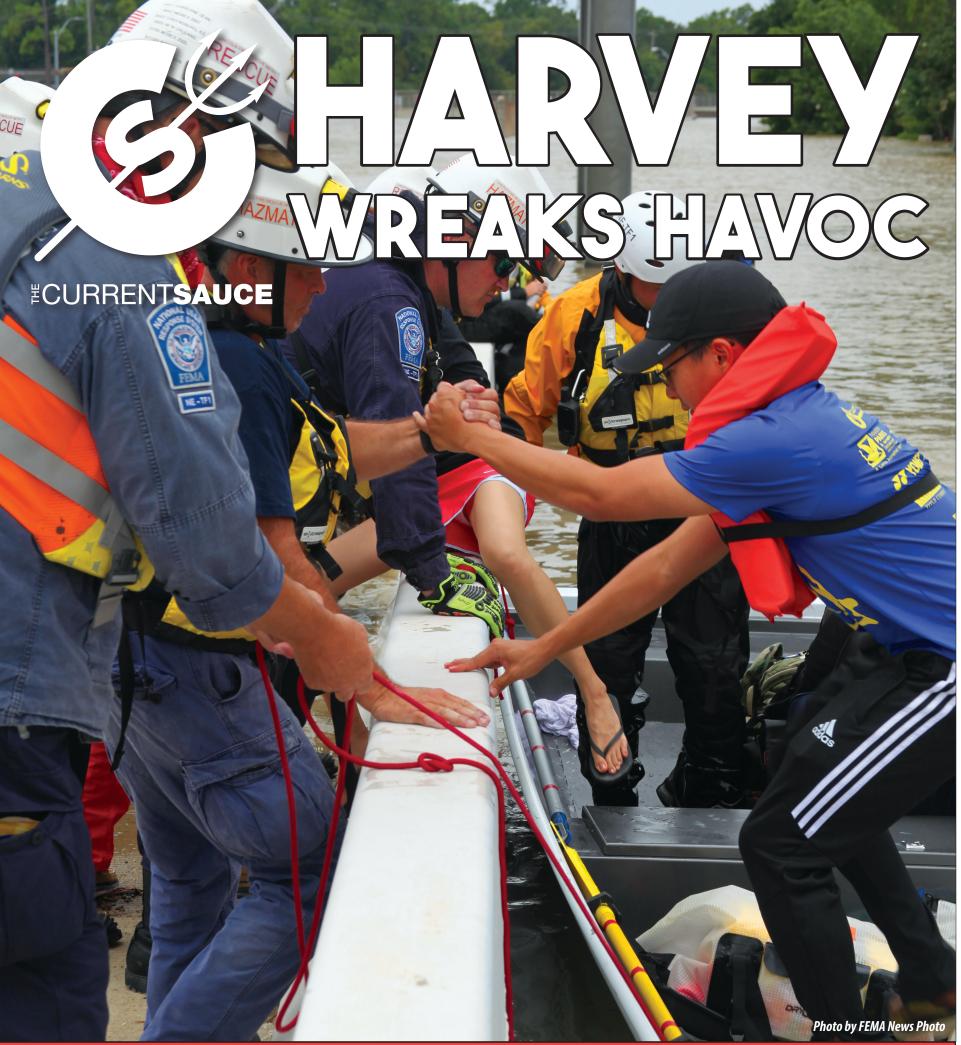
white supremacy and inciting racial discrimination and hatred."

This reinstates the idea that without a 100-percent condemnation, the white supremacists are growing stronger.

To reiterate, white supremacy is not a new idea; it's just in new packaging. Since the country's inception, citizens have been fighting against white supremacists. Our history has been erased and whitewashed to the point where people don't remember how racist and genocidal the founders were. They don't remember how white people from all socioeconomic groups perpetuated the stereotypes and systematic injustices against non-white people.

White supremacy is not on the rise. It has always been here. The only difference now is the methodology of recruitment and action we are witnesses to.





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Flood relief efforts continue for Texas and Louisiana

ARTS&LIVING

Sam Sibley repaving complete, more projects to follow

SPORTS

Walk-on athlete defies odds, moves up depth chart

OPINION

Does Antifa bring peace or just escalate the violence?

2 NEWS

August 29

Theft 0900 hours Off Campus

Forged Checks 1112 hours St. Denis Hall

August 30

Disturbance 2117 hours University Place I Residents quieted down

Drug Law Violation 2132 hours University Place I No narcotics found

August 31

Disturbance 0150 hours University Columns Residents quieted down

Suspicious Person 2304 hours Parking Lot 25L People were identified

September 1

Suspicious Person 0214 hours Tarlton Drive Escorted off campus

Loud Music 0237 hours Kappa Sigma house Summons issued

Theft 1527 hours Parking Lot 27

September 4

Drug Law Violation 1910 hours University Columns

Sexual Assault 2042 hours University Place II Suspect in custody

The NSU Police keeps a record of all campus crime. Visit their office on Caspari Street and ask for the daily crime log if you'd like a copy.

Police Blotter Relief efforts continue as record storm hits Texas and Louisiana

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

ays before the 12th anniversary of of Hurricane Katrina, what began as tropical storm Harvey strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, devastating areas of Texas and Louisiana as it made landfall Aug. 25.

Named on Aug. 17 by the National Hurricane Center, Harvey first raised alarms for islands in the Caribbean such as Barbados and St. Lucia. Though the cyclone's power decreased, it regained momentum as it traveled through the gulf.

Harvey swept through Port Aransas, Texas, with a top wind speed of 132 miles per hour, and as it continued inland to Houston, Texas, the storm was quickly labeled as the most severe to hit the U.S. in more than a decade.

The National Weather Service reported Cedar Bayou, Texas, received 51.88 inches of rain; this amount breaks the previous record from 1978 of the most rainfall from a single storm in the continental U.S. Other areas such as Beaumont received 47.35 inches of rain.

Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency for the entire state of Louisiana on Aug. 24 in preparation of Harvey's impact.

Downgraded to a tropical storm, Harvey first struck Louisiana in Cameron Residents Parish. were encouraged to evacuate due to the dangerous possibility of storm surge and immense flooding.

Natchitoches Parish as well as several other parishes in the state also declared a state of emergency, though the eventual outcome of Harvey was not as severe as expected.

As emergency services and volunteers such as the 'Cajun Navy' began search and rescue, mega shelters opened their doors to Houstonians and residents of affected areas. Flooding across Texas



Sharon Karr/FEMA

Cindy Deranger, survivor of Hurricane Harvey, tries not to weep as her friend, Tina Martinez, arrives at a Louisiana stateoperated shelter in Alexandria, Louisiana, to take her home to Vidor, Texas. Cindy will not be able to return to her own home yet, but she will be with friends and her husband as they begin the recovery from devastation.

displaced thousands; CNN reported that more than 72,000 people were rescued, and BBC News stated 43,000 are living in shelters.

Members of the National Guard were deployed to areas of southwest Louisiana to assist local emergency services and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in rescuing people and pets. The Louisiana National Guard Public Affairs Office called it "a tremendous team effort."

In addition to helping Louisiana citizens, the Louisiana National Guard expanded their efforts to help southeast Texans in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Marines Reserves.

Gov. Edwards said the state is prepared to open its doors to residents of Texas that have been displaced by Harvey; "It's just the right thing to do," Edwards said, recollecting as many have about the support provided during disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

TEXAS: We are with you today, we are with you tomorrow, and we will be with you every single day after, to restore, recover, and rebuild!

- President Donald Trump

Harvey leaves in its wake a current death toll of 43, though the numbers are expected to rise as floodwaters recede.

President Trump paid two visits to Houston and another to Lake Charles, Louisiana, as well as pledged \$1 million of his personal funds to relief efforts. Professional athletes and sports organizations, celebrities and others have

also donated and created campaigns to raise funds for victims.

NSU's own relief effort team began organizing with the intention of traveling to affected areas over the Labor Day weekend but rescheduled the trip to Sept. 8-10. Dr. Curt Phifer, professor of biology and the primary coordinator of the relief effort team, encouraged students to support local efforts in the meantime.

The NSU Student Government Association (SGA) donated \$10,000 from the Organizational Relief Fund (ORF) "to assist with transportation and hotel costs associated with relief efforts."

The Student Activity Board (SAB) will set up areas Sept. 5-7 in the Student Union to donate supplies and goods needed to help those affected by Harvey.

Additional student groups and organizations in Natchitoches plan to host relief drives in the coming weeks.

SEPT.62017 ARTS&LIVING 31



The Eyes of Argus

APRIL DICKSON BRAUN

Declare – Argus 2007

We'll wait until tomorrow To really make that call. We'll wait until it's way too late To give a shit at all.

Welcome to the dream of dreams: There is nothing here to fear. Just use, reuse, and then abuse -It's OK, you're in the clear.

You'll never see the horror Of all color turned to grey. It's none of your concern now, see, But your kids will have to pay.

So just jump into your SUVs, And drive into the sun. "Don't look at me," I know you'll say, "I'm not the only one."

"Don't hate me for the way I think. I'm only one small mind." The problem is - you see, kind sir -There are millions of your kind.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Katie Rayburn at krayburn008126@nsula.edu if you are interested in getting involved with Argus, NSU's literary and arts magazine.

Road repaving one of many projects

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

Northwestern State University is making an effort to improve the structures on campus. Students can see some changes already in effect, but there is still work to be

Sam Sibley Drive was notorious for its potholes; these were so bad, cars could be damaged driving at the speed limit. The project to repave this road began in April 2017. Money for the project came from university funds, and students seem to think it was well worth it.

"I can actually drive my car without worrying something will fall off due to all the potholes," said Lulu Mier, sophomore biology

Capital Outlay and Special Projects Coordinator Gil Gilson said plans for repaving other roads are in the works, but with the currently-uncertain nature of state funding, there is no telling when the university will receive money to complete these projects.

The only money received from the state for renovations recently was used to replace the air conditioning in Bienvenu Hall.

Some places around campus were noticed to be especially dark at night. To increase student safety, several LED lights have been added to provide a cost-effective, efficient solution to reduce dark spaces in which people could once hide.

Sophomore criminal justice major JaKayla Lee thinks the new lights are a great addition to

"A lot of females have late-night classes, and while they can call the



Photo by Melissa Taylor

Sam Sibley Drive from University Parkway to Caspari Street was repaved over the summer.

police, it swamps the police station, taking away from if there was an emergency," she said.

NSU is trying to change all bulbs to LEDs, according to Gilson. Lights in some buildings, on organization row and the "N" atop Turpin Stadium have been changed and there are plans in the near future to replace the remaining lights as well.

The new LED bulbs are just one of a few things Northwestern State is doing to become a more eco-friendly campus. Faucets are being replaced and will have an automatic shutoff, conserving water. New air conditioning controls will temperatures and humidity and keep the temperature at a set point, reducing energy use.

One project close to fruition is a covered pavilion on the Iberville Green that will be able to accommodate speakers and lights for concerts. The pavilion is expected to be finished about three months after funds are secured and construction begins.

Also in the works is a new multipurpose building. This project will cost roughly \$34 million, and NSU has begun consulting with different groups around campus to decide who would use the building and for what purposes. The area to the east of Tarlton Drive is being considered for this building.

Buildings in line for renovation include Roy Hall, A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Center, Bienvenu Hall, Fournet Hall, Watson Memorial Library and a complete rebuild of Kyser Hall.

If students have suggestions for renovation projects, Gilson says administrators pay attention to the Student Concerns Facebook

Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce offers student membership



ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

Students aged 18-21 now are able to join the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce for a reduced rate. \$35 purchases a oneyear membership and gives

students all the benefits of a Natchitoches. full-priced membership.

Benefits include invites Chamber events, steeply-discounted for paid events and access to a network of local professionals and decision makers.

Maggie Harris, director of membership experience for the Chamber, is a fulltime student at NSU and believes this reduced-cost membership will encourage students to develop professional networks in

"There are students who are serious about wanting to jump start their careers, and this new initiative will give students the chance to build their professional networks," she said.

Associate Professor Dr. Carmella Parker from NSU's School of Business advocated for the creation of this new membership level.

"It is our hope that students our business will develop meaningful

professional relationships that can assist them in preparing for the real world," Parker said.

For students who are over the age of 21, the Chamber offers another program called Natchitoches Young Professionals. This is a community of professionals aged 21-40 in the Natchitoches area who gather for networking opportunities.

An advertisement was circulated to all business students encouraging

them to take advantage of this opportunity to build their resume and contacts. Harris said no students have committed to the \$35 membership yet but the Chamber has received inquiries.

For students interested in joining either Natchitoches Young Professionals Natchitoches Area the Chamber of Commerce, email membership@ natchitocheschamber. or natchitocheschamber.com.

4 SI

FROMSUMMER EXHIBITIONS TO CHRISTMAS SPECTACULARS

CAPA showcases student, faculty, professional talent

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

"The fall calendar has something for everyone," says Greg Handel, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Highlights include countless faculty, student and guest performances on instruments such as piano, violin, clarinet and horn, the annual Faculty Showcase featuring Fine and Graphic Arts faculty work and the annual Christmas Makers' Faire.

Sept. 2, the Spirit of Northwestern traveled to Louisiana Tech to perform at the football game and as usual will continue to perform at sporting events throughout the season. In addition to halftime shows, the band will travel to Mesquite, Texas, for an exhibition performance at Mesquite High School.

"The marching band is traveling to Louisiana Tech and Mesquite, Texas, for a high school marching exhibition," Hope Spaw says. "I'll get to attend the LMEA conference in Baton Rouge with the orchestra and wind symphony."

Sept. 27-30, NSU Theatre will present "Stars of Tomorrow," a traveling showcase of musical theatre performances starring CAPA students.

"'Stars of Tomorrow' is a musical we have put together dependent on the strengths of our cast, both individually and together," says Maddie Fry, senior theatre major. "It is a showcase of all different kinds of musicals, contemporary to classic, and includes dancing and acting."

"I'm looking forward to touring with 'Stars of Tomorrow," Fry says. "It's such a fun show and a great cast. It's going to be demanding but the payoff is huge."

Nov. 3 is Journalism Day, better known as "J-Day." This event is an opportunity for students to learn about the career opportunities available through journalism.

Nov. 5, NSU Theatre will present "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," an adaptation of the classic play by Christopher Hampton and recently featured on Broadway.

CAPA will also present the annual Christmas Gala which includes a performance at Shreveport's historic Strand Theatre.

Junior musical theatre major Erika Jarlock is already anticipating the Gala rehearsals and performances.

"I'm excited to be busy again," she says. "I wouldn't trade back-to-back rehearsals for anything in the world. Being in a show is an exhilarating experience from beginning to end. I can't wait to spend the rest of my life performing!"

According to Handel, CAPA now has live-streaming capabilities in Magale Recital Hall, but faculty are familiarizing themselves with copyright laws to avoid infractions before taking advantage of the new technology.

"We hope to continue to present highquality events of artistic integrity," Handel says.

All CAPA events are free to NSU, LSMSA and BPCC-NSU students with a valid student ID. For more information on events, visit capa.nsula.edu

FALL 2017 CAPA HIG

Annual Art Faculty E.

Hanche

Choral P 7:30 p.m., Magale Recit

1,10,5000 11000

Theatre: "Stars of Tomorro 7:30 p.m., Theatre V

Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony 7:30 p.m., Magale Recital Hal

0ct. 11

University Jazz Orchestra 7:30 p.m., Magale Recital Hall

Oct. 16 - Dec. 15Collection of Ron Wilkinson *Hanchey Gallery*

Oct. 22

Opera Theatre: "Le Nozze di Figaro" 7:30 p.m., Magale Recital Hall

Nov. 1

Chamber Winds 7:30 p.m., Magale Recital Hall

Nov. 1-4

Theatre: "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" 7:30 p.m., Fredericks Auditorium

Nov. 16

Wind Symphony 7:30 p.m., Magale Recital Hall

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 Christmas Gala

7 p.m., Fredericks Auditorium

Dec. 6-7

Christmas Makers' Faire 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Hanchey Gallery





6 SPORTS SEPT.6.2017

Walk-on moves up the depth chart

SAMANTHA MAIETTE *Reporter*

Most players on the Northwestern State Demons Football team have one thing in common: recruitment during their high school years. However, some players, such as Bryson Bourque, decided to walk on following the end of his high school career.

Bourque is what is known as a preferred walk-on, meaning coaches knew what he could do on the field but could not offer him an athletic scholarship for one reason or another.

"I had a few schools in the Southern Conference who were looking at me as a walk-on," Bourque says. "But when it came down to it, I was more familiar with this area."

Being a preferred walkon allowed Bourque to go straight into summer and fall football camp, bypassing open tryouts and a long paperwork process that checks players' qualifications to play for NCAA teams.

"I was able to go to camp. I did start off at the bottom of the depth chart, but I was slowly able to make my way up," Bourque says.

Players face many challenges both on and



FILE - Wide receiver Bryson Bourque runs the ball during practice.

Photo by Chris Reich/NSU Photographic Services

off the field, although the challenges are unique to each person. Bourque mentioned that being mentally strong was the hardest part of his transition from high school to college football.

"I came from a power house; I wasn't the star of the team, but I was a guy that was heavily relied upon," he says. "Everyone wants to be a star in the position they play. I think that was the hardest part, knowing that the only way I was going to get on the bus as a true freshman and walk-on was [playing on] special teams."

Bourque moved past this challenge and, in his mind, became a role model for younger players and transfers.

"Everyone messes up, and I want to show the younger guys that you don't let your head hang," Bourque says on his leadership role. "You need to come back the next day and learn from your mistakes."

Bourque shows that

through hard work and dedication, it is possible to move from the bottom of the depth chart to having a scholarship position and becoming a leader for the younger generation of NSU Football players.

Keep up with the football schedule at www. nsudemons.com

Volleyball star Burleson digs her way into NSU history

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

From hitting the ball to hitting the floor, versatility is key to a player's success in the game of volleyball. Northwestern State's junior libero Channing Burleson was rewarded for her success on the court during her second season with the 2016-2017 Demon Delight of the Year honor.

The Demon Delights competition highlights sixteen moments from the previous year, and fans vote for their favorite a la March Madness – bracket style. Each round

of voting prior to the finals sought fan votes for 24 hours via nsudemons.com and Twitter, and then the final round took votes for 48 hours.

Burleson went head to head with soccer reps coach George Van Linder, goalkeeper Alex Latham and newcomer April Trowbridge in the final round, ultimately winning the vote July 30. Along the way, she defeated sprinter De'Shalyn Jones, wide receiver Shakeir Ryan and graduate assistant Trey McCrory.

Burleson said she was unaware she was even up for the award until she saw something about it on the NSU website.

In addition to the Demon Delight award, Burleson was named to the 2016 Academic All-Southland Conference Second Team, 2016 Southland Conference Commissioner's Fall Honor Roll, and 2015 Southland Conference Commissioner's Fall Honor Roll.

Burleson's career in the sport started with playing club volleyball in middle school; she was recruited during her high school years by Northwestern State as an outside hitter.

Though she was recruited as an outside hitter and played

the position during her first season as a Demon, Burleson was told at the 2016 volleyball camp that she should be open to the idea of switching to libero, a completely defensive position.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, the libero position is the player who wears an opposite-color jersey.

"I was excited about it. I have always liked defense," Burleson said.

And defend she did. Part of Burleson's big success last season was her dig record. Burleson holds the third-highest record of digs in a single season in NSU's

history

Burleson finished the 2016-2017 season with 572 digs, ranking 39th in the nation. The Lady Demons completed the 2016-2017 season with an overall record of 12-20.

The 2017-2018 volleyball season has already started, and Burleson said she has high hopes for the team.

According to Burleson, the team has more depth and "is already looking better than last season."

Catch Burleson and the rest of the team at the first home game against Alcorn Sept. 28 at 1:00 p.m. in Prather Coliseum. SEPT.6.2017

Review:

Kesha's 'Rainbow'



CALEB HOWELL Opinion Columnist

Five years after her release of "Warrior," Kesha released a powerhouse of an album, "Rainbow," which, as the name suggests, explores providential outcomes of the stormiest of situations and champions resilience in the face of adversity.

A reaction to Kesha's personal turmoil, "Rainbow" is unapologetic and genuine, bold and confident. With tracks like "Finding You," "Hunt You Down" and "Old Flames (Can't Hold A Candle To You)," Kesha infuses her familiar tone with countryinspired lyrics and themes that will urge even the most country-averse to consider purchasing a pair of boots.

Other tracks such as "Let 'Em Talk" and "Woman" feel in-your-face, authentic and fun. "Rainbow" is an album that begs to be played over and over, and its diversity of sounds provides content for everyone.

The album contains the track "Godzilla" for enthusiasts of transparent metaphors and gentle acoustic guitar, while the tracks "Praying" and "Learn To Let Go" demand listeners to sing-scream along in their cars and showers.

Notable Tracks: "Praying," "Learn To Let Go," "Boots" and "Hymn" are absolute bops.



An Antifa member protests in New Orleans, Louisiana near Jackson Square.

Antifa: Peacekeepers or mobsters?

MAYGIN CHESSON

Administrative Assistant

s the battle between the left and right of the political spectrum continues, someone must step back and think, "what in the world is going on here?"

Antifa, or anti-fascists, dates back to the days of Mussolini and Hitler. They have great antiracist, anti-sexist, antihomophobic principles, but while standing up for their beliefs, are they working for the greater good or just causing more hurt and violence?

At a planned, and later officially canceled, "No to Marxism in America" rally in Berkeley, California, on Aug. 27, a crowd of thousands was met with the violence of a swarm of Antifa members.

Those originally at the rally were there to "peacefully oppose [the] bigotry, hatred, and racism that we saw on display in Charlottesville," Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguín said in a statement from The Washington Post.

The black-clad Antifa members brought homemade shields, pepper spray, water bottles and sticks to

defend themselves, despite the fact that police sent out a list of numerous items banned from such gatherings. Why would they need objects for self-defense at a peaceful rally?

Mark Bray, author of the book "Antifa: The Antifascist Handbook," states that the groups "...

Are they

greater good

or just causing

more hurt and

violence?

organize self-defense trainings and physically confront the far right when necessary." So was it necessary at a peaceful rally that resulted in, as Berkeley Police

Lieutenant Joe Okies told The Washington Post, "13 arrests on a range of charges including assault with a deadly weapon, obstructing a police officer, and various Berkeley municipal code violations"?

The answer is no. Despite what the other crowd politically believed in, they were rallying for a common principle: anti-hate. Why is it that our nation has become

so divided that we aren't capable of realizing when we're on the same side?

Antifa groups were created to support those being patronized and yet terrorize those that they feel oppose them. What a contradiction, right? These anti-hate groups attack people and set vehicles on fire because,

to them, the stereotype of the "far right" means that all Republicans working for the are neo-Nazis and white supremacists. But isn't that hateful?

> While some Republicans are on the far right of the political

spectrum, not each one you come across is a neo-Nazi or white supremacist.

It is not okay for groups to claim they are antihate, anti-racist, antianything that wrongly comes against someone else and then beat people in the streets because they don't have the exact same belief system of said

Antifa groups believe in great causes but poorly rally for them.



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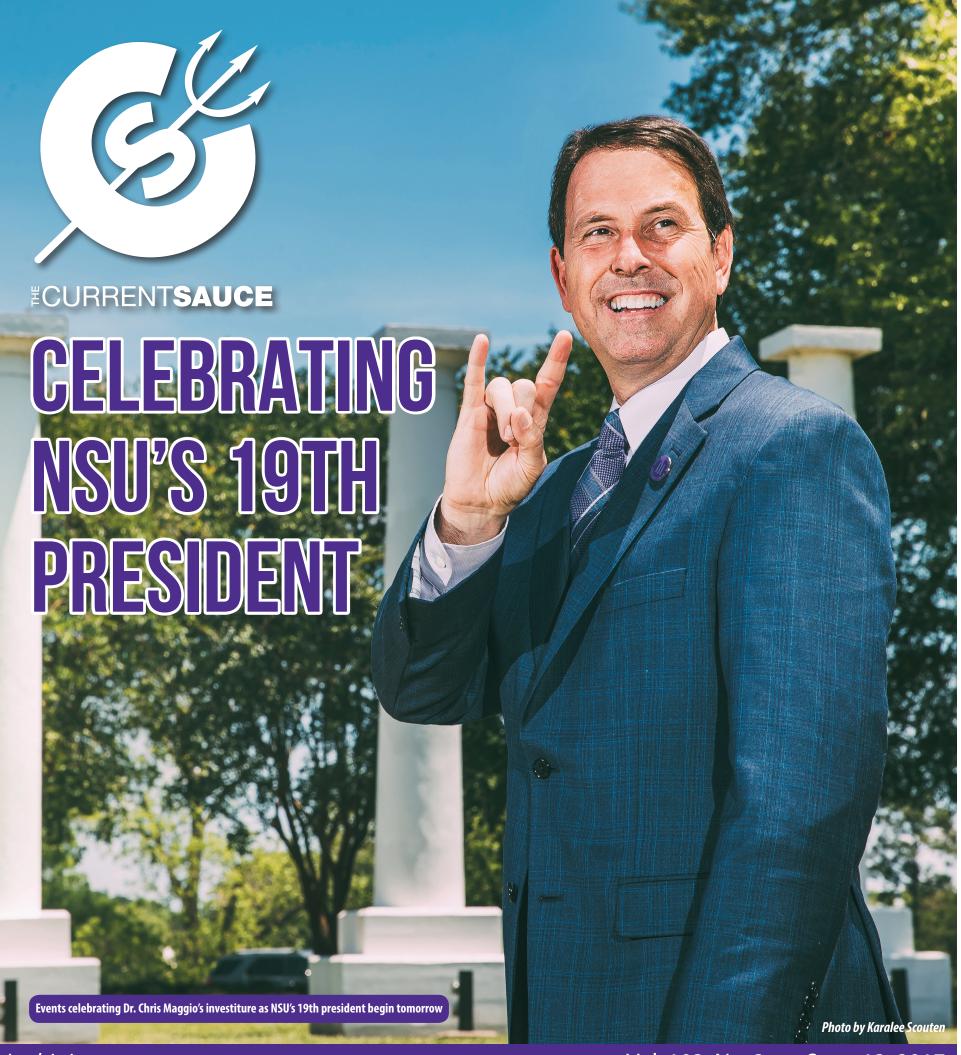




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September 5

Theft 0746 hours

Theft

0923 hours University Place I

HPE Building

1109 hours University Place I

Bike Theft 1153 hours Athletic Field House

September 7

Theft

1418 hours Barnes & Noble

Drug Law Violation 2144 hours University Columns Summons issued

September 8

Drug Law Violation 0034 hours University Place I Summons issued

SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

Investiture celebrations will begin Thursday, Sept. 14 with the pep rally and concert featuring The Molly Ringwalds. The events will be held at the Tailgate Field and Collins Pavilion starting at 7:30

Classes may or may not be canceled Sept. 15 for the Investiture; it is up to professors' discretion. SGA President Tre Nelson said the university originally intended to cancel classes but discontinued the plan due to campus closures from Hurricane Harvey.

NSU has an all-time high enrollment of 10,572 students; in 2004, the total enrollment was 10,400 students.

Coffee with Conine will be held Sept. 14 at 8 a.m. on the Keyser Brickway.

Police Blotter One after another

Busy hurricane season terrorizes Caribbean and **Gulf regions**

ZOE ALMARAZ Reporter

urricane Harvey swept through southeast Texas and then crossed into Louisiana, leaving tens of thousands of people displaced and structures damaged. Environmental Protection Agency announced at least 13 toxic waste sites were flooded or received damage from the storm. Although there is no immediate danger, the agency will investigate as soon as flood waters recede.

Fortunately, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has already begun efforts to repair affected areas and send money to insurance companies. They have set up a website for volunteers and people who wish to donate. The site also has a link to trusted charities and for the 30 Texas counties' emergencymanagement sites.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Texas will not need a special session to "address the needs" of displaced people. The state has about \$10.3 billion dollars in their rainy day fund but is holding off on dipping into it. Lawmakers are preparing for the session in 2019, as Speaker Joe Straus says that they will look towards new ways to reduce the impact of future storms.



Photo by FEMA News Photo

New York Task Force 1 and Virginia Task Force 1 and 2 conduct search and rescue operations on St. Thomas and St. John, part of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Caribbean islands and devastated the Florida Keys.

Other islands affected include Barbuda and the Virgin Islands.

St. Martin, a French and Dutch territory, and its nearest islands have experienced major damage and flooding. French Minister of the Interior Gérard Collomb said even the most durable buildings were destroyed.

"In all likelihood, the more rustic buildings are probably totally or partially destroyed," he said.

Other southern islands are expected to have massive storm surges. Roughly 95 percent of Barbuda has been destroyed, and 60 percent of the population is now homeless.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda said the Hurricane Irma has already hit the latter island is now basically rubble. He estimates \$100 million dollars is needed for rebuilding efforts.

The storm was expected to devastate U.S. territory Puerto Rico, which is already suffering from large amounts of debt and is in a state of bankruptcy. Luckily, the island only experienced minor scuffs and was able to provide refuge and emergency relief to people in less-fortunate circumstances.

Just behind Irma is Hurricane Jose, and it is gaining strength. Meteorologists think a U.S. strike is unlikely, but it is possible.

Hurricane Katia struck Mexico following a deadly earthquake that killed at least 61 people.

The Weather Channel and the National Weather Service are closely monitoring these hurricanes and their

CAPA faculty to showcase talent next Tuesday

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

The School of Creative and Performing Arts is known for its talented students at Northwestern State, but the NSU Faculty Showcase seeks to display the diverse talents of the faculty members with a concert and art gallery.

Instructor of Oboe Leah Forsyth is head of the committee that organizes the event. She said the showcase covers a wide variety of the arts, and there will be something everyone will be able to enjoy.

Forsyth said the concert everything features from musical theater to opera arias to baroque music on instruments from that time period and lots in between. One piece features snare drum and an accompanying dancer.

"It's a little bit different every year depending on who's interested and who's available," Forsyth said.

The recital is scheduled for Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

In addition to the concert, Orville J. Hanchey Gallery will be open for guests to observe faculty artwork. This exhibit will remain open until Sept.

Associate Professor of Art Leslie Gruesbeck serves as the gallery coordinator and decides where pieces are set up for the showcase, trying to "tell a visual story" to viewers.

This year, thirty pieces of art by nine faculty artists are featured in the exhibit.

"It's what we do - create visual art," Gruesbeck said.

"It's kind of a thing we must do. Each year, this exhibition showcases our latest works."

Similar to the concert, the exhibit shows variety including sculpture, film, graphic design, fiber art, painting and photography.

"The exhibit is because it gives the audience an overview of what each one of the faculty members is working on," Gruesbeck

Questions about the show or gallery can be directed to the CAPA office at 318-357-4522.

SEPT.13,2017 ARTS&LIVING 3



The Eyes of Argus

sunrise over natchitoches

KEVIN J. BOURQUE

3rd place winner in Argus 1996

empty, sluggish, the sun emerges, revealing sky clear and blank, pure and grey, innocuous. the horizon hold no hollow surprises, nothing as unpredictable as a slow shedding of dark, clothing itself in shades of sullen blue and simple. the clouds hand, suspended by godstring, gasps of hot, close breath, drifting slowly to where the cane makes its muddy march, like dark, sweet syrup or a dull, fat worm.

Submit your writing, fine art or photography to https://argusnsu.submittable.com/submit by Dec. 1 for a chance to be published in the 2018 edition of Argus.

Marching band refuses to yield

HANNAH MORRIS
Contributing Writer

The classic Don McLean song "American Pie" says "the marching band refused to yield." I can think of nothing else to describe the Spirit of Northwestern Marching

Band better than this. Dr. Jeff Mathews, director of bands, agrees.
"I wish [everyone] knew how many

people and how many hours go into

making this work," he said.

The Spirit of Northwestern added 115 freshmen to its ranks this year, a record-breaking number for the band. This pushed the marching band's numbers close to 340.

The band starts its season well before classes begin. While the leadership team officially started the season on Aug. 10, they were quickly followed by remaining members on Aug. 14. However, Mathews asserts directors have been working on this season since the end of the previous one.

Although campus was closed due to Hurricane Harvey, they were determined to get a practice in before their first performance of the season – a football game at Louisiana Tech University.

After obtaining permission from the school, steadfast band members were at the Proving Grounds – their practice field – on the afternoon of Sept. 1 preparing for their first



Photo by Justin Burr

Sophomore Kevin Hendricks plays tenor drums in the stands of the NSU vs. Louisiana Tech football game Sept. 2.

performance of the year alongside Louisiana Tech's Band of Pride the following day. Dr. Mathews called the collaborative experience "fantastic."

This performance would later be dedicated to the victims and survivors of Harvey, earning the combined bands multiple standing ovations from the crowd and a rave review from College Marching Bands, a website dedicated to "celebrating the pageantry, tradition and excellence" of collegiate bands.

"You won't hear anything better than this today," the reviewer wrote.

The band directors said they have a fundraising idea to aid victims of the hurricane, but it is still in the early stages of development. Mathews said they will do whatever they can to help those affected while continuing to work on the next part of their season – a tribute to the 50th anniversary of The Beatles' albums "Magical Mystery Tour" and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

The Spirit of Northwestern's full performance schedule can be viewed online at capa.nsula.edu

'80s Comeback Kid: Maggio's celebration concert

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

Big hair, neon and shoulder pads, oh my!

The '80s are back at Northwestern State in full force with the ultimate 'Throwback Thursday' pep rally and concert featuring The Molly Ringwalds, kicking off a three-day celebration of Dr. Chris Maggio becoming NSU's 19th president.

The Demons Come Out at Night Pep Rally and Back to the '80s concert on Sept. 14 are sure ways to engage students, alumni and the community, Associate Director of Alumni Affairs Van Erickson said. The evening activities are joint efforts between the First Year Experience, Alumni Affairs,

Student Activities Board and Student Government Association.

The '80s stood out as an iconic era to the Investiture Committee planning events and seemed like a natural choice as a theme, especially since Maggio graduated from NSU himself in 1982.

"We went and really looked back at what NSU was like in the '80s," Erickson said. "There's some really cool stuff that our students should know about."

Erickson also said he is excited to introduce new students to traditions upheld at the university.

"The number one priority is the students," he said. "That's what it's all about."

Freshman liberal arts and

music joint major Kailey Wisthoff said she is excited for the start of the football season and the music aspect of the evening, especially because she is also the freshman scholar for KNWD.

"I adore '80s music," Wisthoff said. "I'm ecstatic about experiencing [the pep rally and concert] as a new student at NSU and meeting new people."

The Molly Ringwalds, named after the iconic actress who starred in cult classics such as "The Breakfast Club," "Sixteen Candles" and "Pretty in Pink," covers music from Duran Duran to Beastie Boys to Bon Jovi and Def Leppard.

Frontman of The Molly Ringwalds Sir Devon Nooner explained the diversity of music they play stems from the interests of the five band members and is a quality of the era itself. That's the appeal of the '80s, he said.

"It was the music, it was the style, it was the fashion," Nooner said. "There was such variety of music. It was one of the last great decades of music, in my opinion."

Both events plan to highlight those aspects in several ways, including a scholarship provided by Alumni Affairs and the NSU Foundation for the best-dressed student. The \$711 award was how much tuition cost when Maggio was a student; Erickson said First Lady Jennifer Maggio came up with the idea for the scholarship.

Speaking of the band's

name selection, Nooner joked that it sounded better than "The Judd Nelsons."

"The name sets the tone of what the audience is going to see. You absolutely know that it's not going to be a '70s disco cover band," he said. "I think it's one of the most important decisions we've ever made."

Nooner also said playing '80s music for a younger generation is especially gratifying.

"You look at audiences of 17 year olds remembering the lyrics better than I can, and I [lived] through it," he laughed.

The pep rally will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Tailgate Field and Collins Pavilion, followed by The Molly Ringwalds performing until 10 p.m.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAVEL

What started as just one semester abroad in France turned into a seven-month European excursion.

HOLLY JENKINS *Reporter*

Sélène Allain-Kovacs makes a spontaneous trip to Frankfurt, Germany, after seven months abroad. She and a friend attend a festival and sit next to a group of strangers. While getting to know everyone, they realize they all have something in common: travel.

They are all from different places and backgrounds, yet together they experience what Allain-Kovacs refers to as one of the most magical moments of her time abroad. One from the group, a man from the Netherlands says, "This. This conversation; this is the importance of travel. If anyone asks why they should travel, we should all tell them about tonight."

Moments like these were commonplace for Allain-Kovacs during her time abroad. Upon arrival in France, she realized she had five days before classes began and decided to take a trip. With her eyes closed, she pointed at a map and landed on Copenhagen – and that is where she went.

Allain-Kovacs spent the spring 2017 semester studying abroad at the Université d'Angers in Angers, France. The senior history major says

she knew before starting college that she wanted to study abroad, so when she saw a flyer one day advertising the exchange program in Angers, the decision to apply was easy.

NSU's International Student Resource Center coordinates students' international exchanges and often allows them to pay the same tuition they would pay if they were still in the U.S. After factoring in scholarships, the only costs for Allain-Kovacs were rent, food and travel costs. She was able to keep her job as an English tutor and editor while overseas – something that helped with her income tremendously during her travels.

Other than French, each of Allain-Kovacs' classes met once a week. She says school is very different in France. The homework load is lighter, consisting mainly of light reading. Students only receive one grade for the semester: the final. The main difference she notes, however, is the culture.

"I only ever saw one student, another American, wearing sweatpants. Our French professor made fun of him for being so 'comfortable' in class," she says.

On weekends, Allain-Kovacs spent her time exploring surrounding cities, which she says was easy due to the availability of affordable

transportation, like buses and trains. She traveled to four other countries – Spain, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Denmark – while still in school.

After class ended for the semester, Allain-Kovacs continued her travels. She began her summer with a road trip to Portugal before backpacking through Europe. She stayed within her budget by staying in hostels rather than hotels. In a hostel, similar to a dorm room, travelers rent a bed rather than a room. It is this sort of close-quartered living that allowed Allain-Kovacs to meet many of the friends she made during her travels.

While waiting for the subway one day in Rome, she and a friend met two travelers staying at another hostel. All headed toward Vatican City, they decided to travel together and ended up spending the day with each other.

Allain-Kovacs says before her semester abroad, she had never gone somewhere where she didn't know anyone. During the seven-month trip, she had visited 11 countries plus the Vatican and made new friends from all over the world.

For more information on studying abroad, students can visit www.nsula.edu/international/

Allain-Kovacs encourages everyone to travel if at all possible. Read her letter below.



A NOTE FROM SÉLÈNE

Travel. How do I describe what that word means to me? The Cambridge Dictionary defines it as "to go from one place to another on a trip, usually over a long distance." While this is unarguably a correct definition, it doesn't really do justice to what the word means. To me, to travel is to explore. It is pushing yourself to do something, visit somewhere, and see things you would not or could not do in your home town. I am fortunate enough to come from a family that has always encouraged travel, and if they have taught me anything, it is that encouraging others to travel is almost as rewarding as doing it yourself.

Travel, y'all. Go. Do it. I know it seems so scary and overwhelming; there is literally a whole world out there to be explored. You will never see it all, but it is truly amazing how much one trip can change your life. You don't even have to go that far. I am a firm believer in the 24-48 hour adventures. Pick a location, pick one interesting thing to do and wing the rest. Go, make decisions as you go, and see where life leads you. This can be as small as saying "I want to go camping in Kisatche" and driving in the woods until you find somewhere that will make a good campsite.

I know I was extremely fortunate enough to be able to go on my study abroad trip to Angers, France. Studying abroad was something I have always wanted to do, so to me it was just a matter of finding a way and taking advantage of opportunities. My backpacking trip this summer was partially me just going for it, and the other part was strategic planning. I was traveling with a friend whose family

knew a family in Turkey willing to take us in, so we went. The same friend's mother knew someone in Italy who needed a house sitter, so we went. I made friends in France, so we stayed with them. The rest of the time, honestly, I winged it. I picked a city with a few interesting museums or attractions, picked a hostel and figured the rest out when I got there. It is scary, but if you can push past that, it becomes one of the most rewarding things in the world.





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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Sophomore outside hitter Alexis Warren attacks the ball.

Photo by Chris Reich

Volleyball faces tough competitors

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

Northwestern State volleyball suffered three losses this weekend during the Rebel Classic in Oxford, Mississippi. With a tough schedule ahead, the team is looking to improve on the way to conference play.

Demon volleyball competed against the University of Mississippi "Ole Miss," Mercer University and Austin Peay State University; they finished 0-3, 1-3, and 2-3, respectively. Their overall game record is 3-7.

The Demons have only played against regional teams so far this season. Head Coach Sean Kiracofe recognizes the talent of competitors within the region, which he said makes for a challenging schedule against strong opponents. He emphasizes the need to always fight for every point on the scoreboard.

"I think [our problems come from] the frustration level," he said. "We need to be able to keep fighting point for

point, set for set, and not give up."

Kiracofe understands evolving as a team is a continual process, including overcoming mental obstacles such as players thinking sole responsibility is on them to win the match. The hope is that if difficult situations arise again, the team will react and "do something better with the ball." He said they create similar conditions in practice to prepare for this.

Junior outside hitter Reagan Rogers reflected on the need to bounce back from losses.

"We try to learn from every loss we have," she said. "If it is a tough match, we figure out what we need to do to get a win the next time around."

Certain players stood out during the tournament despite losses.

Libero Channing Burleson had 52 digs over the weekend; a season high of 22 digs came from the match against Austin Peay alone. She is now nearing the 1,000 dig career mark and only in her sophomore season.

"By the end of her career, we expect her to be pushing for 2,000 [digs]," Kiracofe said.

Freshman outside hitter Hannah Brister did not play her usual position this weekend, instead playing right side, but that did not stop her from racking up 25 kills and 10 blocks. She saw her first double-digit kill count against Austin Peay with 14 kills and a .619 hitting percentage.

Kiracofe said he was happy about her performance.

"In her first really fulltime start as a freshman, in a different position, she scored a lot of points for us. She produced a lot in some tough situations," Kiracofe explained. "She was called on a lot and we were happy about that."

Middle blockers Madeline Drake and Kourtney Seaton also had an impressive weekend. Their combined statistics from the three games were 44 blocks and 23 kills. Drake reached a seasonhigh six block assists against Mercer.

Losses aside, the team is looking forward to start competing against Southland Conference rivals.

"We [now] know for conference how we need to finish games and keep competing all the time," Rogers said.

Kiracofe said he is not letting the losses affect him too much either.

"We are growing as a team," he said. "I don't think there is one thing we can do to turn it around just because of the level of competition right now, but we look at it as if that is preparing us for conference."

"So personally, I can take a step [back] as far as a loss as long as it is two steps forward for conference."

The team will visit New Orleans Sept. 15-16 to compete in the Tulane Invitational, their last regional matches before conference play begins Sept. 21 against Lamar University.

The Lady Demon volleyball schedule can be found at nsudemons.com

SEPT.13,2017 OPINION 7



Should the average NSU student be drug tested?

SAMANTHA MAIETTE
Opinion Columnist

Walking through University Place and Columns, a distinct scent lingers in the air. It is not an uncommon one, and most college students can recognize the smell in their sleep.

Throughout middle and high school, students experience some form of anti-drug education, the most common being Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E. However, as students grow, this information tends to leave their minds.

How many people actually remember D.A.R.E. training? I know I don't.

High school and college is a time of self-exploration

and the time to push boundaries in any way possible. How else are we to grow as people? However, there does come a time when curiosity turns into trouble.

This brings up a simple question. Should Northwestern State University students be subjected to drug testing by the school?

The overall answer is no, but there are cases where it could be necessary.

The first and biggest concern: cost. Who would shell out the \$50-80 needed for each student to be tested? I'm sure the university will not want to fork over half a million dollars to test the roughly 10,000 students currently enrolled; as broke college

students, we don't have money just laying around either.

The money aspect creates an impasse that would cause students to complain more than they did when TOPS was cut.

The second issue is that it will breach privacy. Nowhere in the student handbook does it say the university can look into our private lives. If a student obtains good grades and abides by rules in the handbook, what does it matter what they do in their free time?

There are circumstances in which a student should be drug tested, though.

Athletes are a good example; they are required by the NCAA to complete a drug test sometime throughout the year. This is just to prove whether or not anyone, in any sport, is taking performance-enhancing supplements to improve their game play.

There are so many sides to the argument about drug testing students that one could lose their voice talking about it. While there are examples of negative side effects of drugs on the human body and mind, we also face concerns over privacy and expenses associated with performing tests, especially on a large group of people.

All in all, there is no one way to create a middle ground between two opposing sides. It is all a matter of willpower on who will win a battle like this in the end.

Freedoms extend to non-patriots

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

Any person who chooses to remain seated for the national anthem is simply exercising freedom of expression just as white supremacists can express their views peacefully.

Here's the catch: Which action do you think will evoke shame and secondhand embarrassment to each party's descendants?

I suggest you take a look in the mirror and think about how you and your ideologies will be portrayed in history books and viewed by people 50 years from now.

This is what I hear most from patriots upset about national-anthem protesters: "If you can't support our national anthem or flag, then get the hell out!"

Really? Did this country's founders give up and leave because they felt voiceless and because they resented Great Britain's monarchy?

No. They stayed. They fought "the man." They won.

Now, I'm not saying we should be proud of the way this country was built (see: oppression of non-white people). However, 'persistence' and 'America' have always gone hand in hand.

People who are not proud of this country, as it is now, stay because they are emotionally invested in its wellbeing. Leaving certainly seems like the logical thing to do at first but emotions cloud the thought process.

Emotions often defy logic. This is not necessarily a bad thing.

I think the lovable sitcom character Leslie Knope put it best: "These people are members of the community that care about where they live, so what I hear when I'm being yelled at is people caring loudly at me."

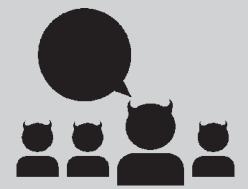
Why don't we all adopt that mindset? It would lead to a much less heated and hatefilled public dialogue.



HAVE AN OPINION TO SHARE?

put a fork in our inbox.

Submit your opinion articles to thecurrentsauce@gmail.com for editorial consideration.







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Hit-and-runs, thefts plague school's start

LEXI ANTOONContributing Writer

Since the start of fall classes and the weeks leading up to it, campus police have received several petty theft and hit-and-run reports in areas along Sam Sibley Drive and Caspari Street.

According to Campus Police, six hit-and-runs and 16 theft complaints have been reported between Aug. 17 and Sept. 17. Two of the hit-and-runs took place on Sam Sibley Drive while two were reported on Caspari Street, one in a parking lot nearby and one at University Place II.

NSU Police Department Captain Wesley Harrell has been on staff for six years and assured it is common to see multiple reports of hitand-runs in the first couple months of school.

"You see it more toward the beginning of a semester because folks are not used to driving on this campus, or maybe they are not paying attention," he said.

While there is seemingly no pattern with thefts overall, police currently have four

open theft cases reported Sept. 5 that took place hours apart from each other.

On a normal day, Harrell said there are four to five officers patrolling campus. With thousands of students on the Natchitoches campus, they must ensure all areas are patrolled.

"I feel safe, but it's a pain in the ass to smoke on campus," one junior said.

In 2014, the Louisiana Legislature mandated all college campuses adopt tobacco-free policies by Aug. 1 – policies students often ignore.

Harrell said most reported thefts on campus are instances of unlocked cars. He urged students to put any valuables out of sight and lock all the doors. Harrell said it is surprising how many cars are unlocked during the day.

While campus police investigate reports they receive, not all thefts are reported. According to several students, Frog Pond Apartments is a hot spot for petty theft. Students living there are warned to lock their cars and take any valuables out.

One student currently living at the apartments revealed her car was broken into Aug. 30. The car was not damaged, but the student noticed both her phone and marijuana grinder Though campus missing. have police jurisdiction anywhere in Natchitoches, the student chose not to report because of the type of item that was stolen.

Harrell would like to see more student and police interaction; he often encourages his officers to go out and speak with the students. His goal is to "bridge the gap," so students will feel comfortable speaking with officers.

"If you see something," he said.

Hit-and-runs will likely decrease as the semester continues, and students can prevent theft by taking the necessary precautions. At the end of the day, the police are here to assist and protect campus and the people on it.

Campus police can be contacted by phone at 318-357-5431 and are available 24/7 at the police station.

10,572 STUDENTS NSU hits record-high enrollment figure

Police Blotter

September 9

Drug Law Violation 0159 hours Caspari Street Summons issued

Theft 1236 hours Lot 11

September 10

Disturbance 2018 hours University Columns Parties quieted down

September 11

Γheft1325 hours
Elementary Lab

Dating Violence 2038 hours President's Field Subjects separated

'Forks Up for Literacy' a success

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

First Lady Jennifer Maggio announced her service project "Forks Up for Literacy," a campaign with a goal of collecting 1,884 books for children ages five to 15. She plans to hold an annual collection for the 1884 campaign at the first home football game every year.

Based on the year NSU was founded, the campaign seeks to collect gently-used and brand-new books to distribute to local school systems in Bossier, Caddo, Natchitoches, Rapides and Vernon Parish.

More than 2,000 books have since been collected following the official campaign kick off on Sept. 16, surpassing the goal.

Scholastic book company

has also agreed to match any

monetary donations raised by the First Lady for the purchase of new books.

Maggio developed a passion for literacy as a former teacher at St. Mary's Catholic School and as a mother of three. She said as a parent she has tried to foster a love of reading in her children.

"I am just shocked, even at the college level, when you talk to kids, many of them will say 'my parents never read to me,' 'I didn't have books in my home,' 'I hated reading in school,'" she said. "When you think about trying to improve the schools here in Natchitoches Parish, try to help our kids to have a better opportunity, I really think the key is reading.

"Getting them to be reading.

"Getting them to be comfortable with reading, knowing they can read – that it is something they can enjoy, we are finding, even in people my age, that it is lifelong learning."

As First Lady, Maggio said she plans on assessing the needs of the school systems and if they are not in need at the time, the campaign can be extended to the community.

"[I think] it will help the community here in Natchitoches feel more connected to Northwestern as well," she said.

Donations can be dropped off at the President's Residence on the front porch or under the carport, and books will continue to be collected at football tailgates. Those interested in helping the First Lady collecting books, placing stickers in the front cover and distributing them to children can contact Jennifer Maggio at maggioj@nsula.edu

September 13

Drug Law Violation 1927 hours

Kyser Hall Unfounded

Fight 2023 hours Student Union

Disturbance 2050 hours University Columns Unfounded

Theft 2142 hours University Place I

September 17

Disturbance

2115 hours University Place II Subjects turned music down

Theft

1915 hours University Place I Items returned to owner SEPT. 20, 2017 NEWS 3



Friday's investiture ceremony honored Dr. Chris Maggio and his family as they affirmed their commitment to Northwestern State University.

Photo by Sean McGraw

Maggio invested 19th president

ALEC HORTON *Editor-in-Chief*

Purple academic regalia once worn by now-UL System President Dr. Jim Henderson loomed stage left, longing for its new wearer.

Flower arrangements topped college pennants behind the orchestra and lined the bottom of the podium center stage, setting the mood for a joyous occasion, which the orchestra commenced with the "British Eighth" march.

If you intended to keep a tally of every "fork 'em," both spoken and mimed, on stage at Friday's coronation-esque ceremony, you probably gave up within 30 minutes.

These observations can all be associated with one characteristic: pride.

An immeasurable sense of pride filled the Fine Arts Auditorium in the A.A. Fredericks Arts Center as students, faculty, staff, administrators, legislators, community members and others gathered in honor of Dr. Chris Maggio, who was

formally invested as the 19th audience's president of Northwestern On a mostate University Sept. 15. he highl

That pride was not only in Maggio's achievements; it was also a result of reflection on progress made at NSU since its genesis in 1886, exemplified by an all-time high enrollment: 10,572.

Four welcome speakers shared anecdotes, touching on the Maggio family's long-standing presence at NSU and in Natchitoches. Among them were Monty Chicola, Alumni Association president, and Dr. Thomas Reynolds, Faculty Senate president and associate professor of English.

"I can think of no one at this university more firmly rooted in Natchitoches and NSU than Dr. Maggio," Reynolds said. "His years of service have helped NSU survive through tough times and thrive in better times. We as a faculty look forward to working with Dr. Maggio for many years to come."

Chicola acted one side of a phone call he said was common in a "Day in the life of Monty," much to the audience's amusement.
On a more serious note,
he highlighted Maggio's
relationship with the student
body and his run for the
presidency.

"He had to compete against people from all over the nation, and Chris was at the front of the pack," Chicola said

Guest speaker Gary Fields was an upperclassman when Maggio started his undergraduate years at NSU and said he was "prepared to not like him" but couldn't.

"I was just so glad he had the good decency to be a couple of years younger than me so I could get out of here before he owned the place," he joked.

"My school will be greater because Chris is at the big house on the lake," Fields said, referring to the President's Residence. "I know with every fiber of his being and every fiber of Jennifer's being and every drop of their blood, they will be pushing for Northwestern – and I'm not talking about that little puny school up in

Illinois; I'm talking about *the* Northwestern State University."

In his Presidential Address, Maggio said the ceremony was a celebration of NSU: its students, history and tradition. He shared the story of his grandfather's settling in Natchitoches and dreaming his children would one day get an education at the school that sat "in the shadow of his home" – a dream that would soon come to fruition with seven of his 11 children receiving degrees from NSU.

"All of us accept the responsibility to keep this university's fires burning brightly here and around the world, for it's the duty of each generation to build a better society than the one which we were born into," Maggio said. "We must assure that thousands of individuals not yet born will have the opportunity to gather at this university, to sit in our classrooms and to earn a diploma and graduate Northwestern State University as productive alumni and citizens."

HOMECOMING

Mr. and Miss NSU, Homecoming Court voting will open Sept. 26 at 8 a.m. and close Sept. 27 at 8 a.m. on OrgSync.

SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

President Tre Nelson thanked senators for their effort and participation at the NSU president's investiture ceremony Sept. 15.

Nelson said four cabinet members of SGA will attend the National Student Government Summit by the American Student Government Association Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 in Washington, D.C.

Vice President Trey Roberts said there will be an Organizational Relief Fund Committee meeting Sept. 25. SR.F.2017-01 was

was introduced and passed in the senate. The resolution sponsored by Sen. Tyler Wright "[encourages] student groups against the use of hazing in membership processes." The document additionally states SGA "[condemns] the use of hazing in any stage of membership... not only at this university but at all colleges and universities." This legislature serves as response to both Hazing National Prevention Week and the ongoing investigation of a student death Louisiana State University.

Jacob Ellis, senator of academic affairs, reminded attendees author and ESPN contributor Tom Rinaldi will speak Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium in the A.A. Fredericks Arts Center.

Sen. Cherish Wilson announced the African American Caucus is hosting a "chunk your change" event Sept. 20, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Keyser Brickway. Proceeds will go to Hurricane Irma victims.



HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

It's a hot and sunny day at the 15th annual Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival, and Santa is out greeting the children. An unexpected guest in September, Santa insists it's never too early to get in the holiday spirit.

"Christmas is only 99 days away," he laughs. "Besides, the kids love seeing me here; it puts a smile on their face."

Santa wasn't the only holiday guest to make an appearance at the Meat Pie Festival. Friday night, Dark Woods staff stopped by to scare festivalgoers and advertise their upcoming event in October.

Among the festival's activities were a mechanical bull, rock climbing wall, fireworks

show and meat pie cooking demonstration.

Leading the demonstration were NSU's Hospitality, Management and Tourism Coordinator Connie Jones and Summer Thomas, a junior in the department.

"This is my first year working at a festival," Thomas says. "I got to teach [NSU President] Dr. Maggio how to make a meat pie. He seemed to have a lot of fun with it."

The festival, which attracts roughly 6,000 people annually, is usually held on the riverbank but was moved to the city's fairgrounds due to construction.

Organizer Doc Couty says the location change has been a positive experience.

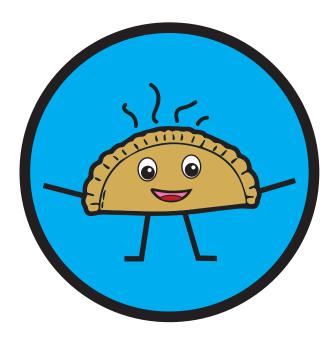
"We have more room here for parking and a wider variety of activities and vendors," he says. One new activity was a tethered hot air balloon, which drew interest from many Natchitoches residents, including graduate student Holly Smith.

"The hot-air balloon was amazing," she says. "It wasn't scary at all, and I got to check something off my bucket list."

Senior elementary education major Gabrielle D'Antoni says her favorite part of the festival was getting to spend time with her friends over delicious food.

"The Meat Pie Festival is great for college students because it provides an environment where you can hang out in a safe environment at a low cost," she says. "Plus, you get to meet a lot of cool people."

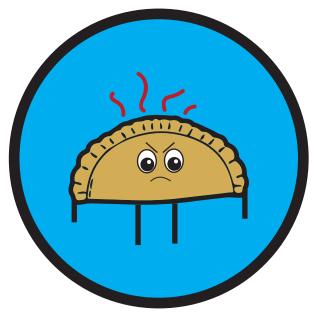
Couty hopes the festival will continue to grow and provide a safe, cheap and family-oriented environment for Natchitoches residents.



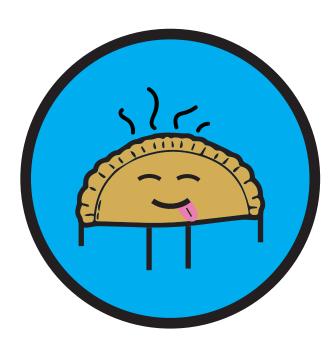




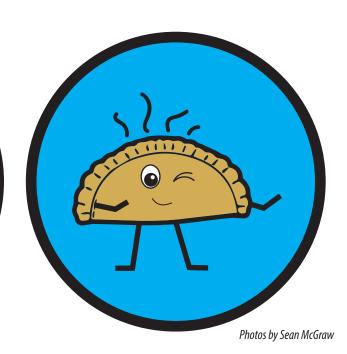












6 SPORTS SEPT. 20, 2017



Running back Jared West lunges through Lamar defense to score a touchdown.

Photo by Sean McGraw

Inferno sparks fiery first win for Demons

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

Demon football fans held their breath in anticipation as the final quarter of the first home game came to a close and brought a 35-28 win against the Lamar University Cardinals.

The 2021 class heated the field with the traditional freshman Inferno run, joining spirit groups at the tunnel for Demon football players to run through as they made their field entrance.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," freshman Alexis Deshotel said. "My first football game, and [the Inferno] run on the field was amazing."

Fellow freshman and Inferno runner Elizabeth Coleman loved the idea behind the Inferno and school spirit at Northwestern State University.

"I think it's awesome how they fully submerge the class of 2021 [as] part of the school," she said.

The energy in Turpin Stadium was high as students and football fans alike gathered to cheer on the team. The Cardinals were welcomed into Demonland with anthems by the Spirit of Northwestern echoing throughout the stadium and an explosive student section intensified by the Inferno.

"There's nothing like it; [We have] a great venue and great game day atmosphere," Head Coach Jay Thomas said.

Sophomore defensive lineman Christian Bluiett agreed with Thomas while senior wide receiver Cameron Lazare reflected on last year's 31-32 loss to Lamar.

"Being able to play in front

of our home crowd and being able to get that juice flowing and that energy going is [a great feeling]," Bluiett said.

"We let [a win] slip through our fingers [last year] and we don't want to let that happen again," Lazare said. "As long as we continue to have our mind and our heart in the right place, everything will be fine."

Though the Demons began with a rough opening with three false starts in a row, they found their rhythm scoring the first touchdown of the game with 7:46 left in the first quarter.

The Cardinals matched the tempo of the Demons, scoring a touchdown and tying the score, but running back Jared West scored again to pull the Demons ahead 14-7.

Wide receiver Jaylen Watson caught a 25-yard pass from quarterback J.D. Almond for yet another touchdown in the second quarter, putting the score at 21-14 going into halftime.

The first Turpin halftime performance of the year included a combination of the Spirit of Northwestern and a group of middle and high school students called "Young Performers" who got a taste of the college band experience by practicing and performing with the band. The show once again highlighted the weekend's activities, celebrating the Investiture of the President by spelling out Maggio.

Energy in the stadium remained high as the second half picked up, despite the tapering crowd.

The Demons had an unfortunate start with a fumble and recovery by the Cardinals, eventually landing Lamar another touchdown drive, but fought back with yet another touchdown by West.

Bluiett seemingly called the win earlier in the week on Sept. 12, sure of his teammates and their abilities.

"We're confident we're going to win at home because you have to protect your house," he said.

And protect their house they did as the Demons fought their way into the fourth quarter with a quarterback run play by Almond, pushing the score to 35-21.

Lamar also scored early in the fourth quarter, but with an interception by cornerback Isaac Warren, the Demon win was secured.

Fans and spirit groups jumped to their feet as the clock ran out, and players rushed to the student section to celebrate by chanting the alma mater with pride.

The Demons will take on the Southeastern Lions at home again in Turpin Stadium Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m. SEPT. 20,2017 ARTS&LIVING 7



The Eyes of Argus

The Nuclear Garden

PAUL PICKERING

Argus 1980

The grass grows green, the sun burns bright,
Millions of children play in the light.
The grass turns brown, the sunlight fades,
the children disappear.

The grass is dead, the sun dies too,
The world is lit with atomic hue.
The sun now shines in an airless void,
The bright green planet is destroyed.
For man in greed, in lust for power,
Has dared to pick the atomic flower.

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If you would like to know more about Argus' new staff, follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

@argusatnsula



 ${\bf Chamber\ Choir\ rehearses\ for\ their\ upcoming\ concert\ with\ the\ combined\ NSU\ \overline{choirs.}}$

Photo by Jasmine Johnson

Combined choirs to perform

ZOE ALMARAZ *Reporter*

The upcoming Northwestern State University Choral Preview Concert will showcase four student choirs as a way to introduce their talents to the community. The concert will take place Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall.

Dr. Nicholaus Cummins, director of choral activities, explained there are usually no choir concerts until the middle of the semester, so having a preview show allows people to see what the choirs are working on in the meantime

Unlike a standard concert, students will have their music on stage to assist them since they are still learning and honing their skills.

Cummins created a similar preview event last year with the Chamber Choir and found the fast learning pace "set the whole semester in a good direction."

Setting the pace at the beginning of the year made it easier for students to apply that skill to learning new music later. He therefore extended the preview concert to all choirs this year.

One advantage of the preview concert is having the four choirs perform together. Students can experience what it is like in a state or national choir, and new members can acclimate to performing in front of an audience. The event will also feature a range of styles without centralizing around a theme, which helps students learn to perform different vocal and musical types.

Cummins hopes to continue this event every semester and organize more performances with other choirs.

Chamber Choir member Syroi Webb is excited for the upcoming year and the challenging pieces to come with it. Her favorite piece so far this semester, "O pos omnes," is a Latin song originally performed by Roman Catholic choirs and adapted from the Book of Lamentations.

Her overall experience with choir has pushed her out of her comfort zone and increased her confidence.

Michael Martin, another choir member, agreed with Webb and said his involvement has taught him valuable skills and helped him grow as a performer. He said he's looking forward to the preview concert specifically because it made everyone work harder.

While most songs are a work-inprogress, those that will be featured for this concert include "Thy Little Ones," performed by the women's choir; "Let Them Hear You"; and "Alleluia." "This Is the Day" was featured at the President's Investiture ceremony on Sept. 15, performed by the Chamber and Concert choirs.

NSU to crown new Miss Northwestern LOB Saturday

SAMANTHA MAIETTE
Reporter

Twelve contestants will battle for the crown of Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet this weekend in the 60th annual pageant. The contest begins at 3 p.m. Sept. 23 in the Fine Arts Auditorium in the A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Center.

As entertaining as it may be to witness the spectacle from an audience perspective, extensive work is done behind the scenes with contestants' preparation and the stage itself, something Jaylon Lewis knows firsthand.

"A week after we crowned Maria Rome as the 59th Miss Lady of the Bracelet, I was already planning for this semester," said Lewis, Miss LOB chairman for the Student Activities Board.

He said the hardest part is finding participants.

"You have a lot of girls on campus who don't think they fit the mold of Miss LOB or have what it takes," he said. "[But] in reality, you have what it takes; you just have to have the confidence to get out there."

The winner receives more than a crown, sash and the bracelet from which the pageant gets its name; she

also receives a scholarship award.

Miss LOB was not always a scholarship program. It originated as a beauty contest in 1958 in which contestants submitted photographs to a group in California who declared the prettiest girl of the group as the winner.

It was not until the early '70s that Miss LOB moved away from its beauty-contest status and joined the Miss America Organization, a non-profit organization that calls itself "the nation's leading advocate for women's education and the largest provider of scholarship assistance to young women in the

United States...'

Miss LOB is more than just a pretty face with a crown on her head and a bracelet on her wrist. She must embody the four points symbolized on the Miss America crown – style, scholarship, service and success – along with representing the university in a positive light.

"I look for a student leader who can represent this university with style and grace, with poise and professionalism," said Yonna Pasch, director of Miss LOB. "It is a student leadership position that should be taken with high regard." 8 OPINION SEPT. 20, 2017



Looking at climate change

HANNAH MORRIS
Opinion Columnist

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Seuss, "The Lorax"

The topic of climate change has become a hotbutton issue within the last decade. Unfortunately, President Donald Trump's decision to leave the Paris Agreement is only a drop in the bucket of the many politicians and citizens of the U.S. who deny climate change's existence.

Within the United Nations, 195 countries agreed in December 2015 to sign the Paris Agreement into action. As of June 1, the U.S. joined Nicaragua and Syria as the only countries who are not a part of this movement.

To put things into perspective, North Korea and Palestine signed the directive. Two of the most difficult countries to work with signed an agreement to help get our planet back on track. When you compare these countries to ours, it stands to reason that we also support this agreement.

Apparently, there are "reasons" behind leaving, according to President Trump. Reasons including, but not limited to, job loss and negative impacts on the U.S. economy.

Not surprisingly, our president didn't do his research, and nor did his cabinet before making this important decision.

The claim of "2.7 million jobs" to be lost relies on a less-than-credible report

from the National Economic Research Associates. In the scenario the NERA uses, the U.S. would have to reduce our overall emissions by 40 percent in the next 20 years, a feat that we could not possibly tackle. On top of this, the NERA underestimates clean-energy innovation in the country.

They also don't take into account that renewable energy jobs vastly outnumber the coal industry, the industry that President Trump would ideally like to support. In fact, the solar industry has grown 25 percent in the last year, and the wind industry has grown 32 percent in the last two.

By deciding to pull back from the Paris Agreement, our president likely has harmed the job market more than he believes he's helped it. Without our participation in the agreement, we are less capable of creating jobs in renewable industries.

By choosing to promote jobs in power plants, coal mines and other related industries, we are, in essence, promoting the loss of jobs in other areas, as well as the eventual loss of life if the planet is not taken care of in a positive way.

Let's also talk about the negative impacts on the economy.

First, the elephant in the room is our astounding amount of debt. Currently, according to the U.S. Debt Clock, our country owes \$20 trillion, and that amount rises every second.

So, what exactly will happen to our economy without the Paris Agreement? Economists from the

University of California at Berkeley and Stanford agree there will be a positive shortterm impact. However, if climate trends continue, the U.S. gross domestic product would drop 36 percent between 2016 and 2099.

Understanding that there are a lot of numbers and percentages involved, the real issue is the planet.

What will happen if nothing is done? Carbon dioxide emissions will continue to rise, and so will the planet's temperature. If this happens, ice caps will melt, and sea levels will rise. Without going into too much detail, Earth would not be the same place it once was.

To bring it home,
Louisiana's coastal erosion
is out of control. According
to archaeologist Brian
Ostahowski, since 1932,
our state has lost an area
slightly larger than the size
of Delaware. Without a
solid plan to help the planet,
Louisiana could erode before
our eyes.

Referring back to Dr.
Seuss' quote, unless we make the conscious decision to save our planet, nothing is going to resolve itself.

We should want to help the planet. We should want to see it thrive. Without making an effort to improve our way of life, we are signing death warrants. And, while it might not be our lives at stake, it is our descendants and other animal inhabitants who will reap the consequences of our choices today. The decision to leave the Paris Agreement may seem small, but in the grand scheme of things, it poses a large threat.

'Knack' sequel a hit

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Opinion Columnist

A video game like "Knack 2" has no real reason to exist.

The first Knack game was a PS4 launch title that was a mediocre platformer and deemphasized jumps. This game was also very boring; you go from section to section using three punches and a kick to defeat enemies until the game is over.

It only gained attention and infamy over the past few years due to a running joke by YouTube user videogamedunkey, who called it a "masterpiece of video gaming."

This game is no joke, however. While many gamers such as myself joke about the conception of "Knack 2," I cannot deny the step up in quality for it. It's surprisingly a good game.

As a sequel, "Knack 2" delivers on what a continuation should be. The creators had the basis down from the original game that was unfortunately too rushed, took it and improved the game from there.

"Knack 2" has more of a focus in variety – something the first game really lacked. Each level and chapter has a new ability and mechanic introduced and keeps the pace going at a constant rate.

Along with a focus on combat, there's a balance with puzzle solving and using Knack's forms and abilities to progress. They added the ability to change Knack's size with a push of a button, resulting in a lot of smart puzzles in combinations of the new forms Knack has.

New to the table is Ice and Metal Knack, the former having Wolverine-esque claws and able to freeze enemies and the latter having more effective combat options and used as an electricity conductor in a few levels.

Co-op is also integrated much better in "Knack 2"; a second player can press start and drop in and out of the game without interruption.

I tried paying attention to the story of "Knack 2," but it was mostly just background noise to me. It did, however, lead from Knack and the crew travel to various locales each chapter to fight goblins and robots.

I must admit, when you constantly keep collecting relics to see Knack grow from 2 to 20 feet, it feels rewarding. The game gave me a feeling of childlike wonder and fun that not a lot of games accomplish today. It's like the video game equivalent of using your giant LEGO figure to knock down buildings and hit smaller figures.

Regardless, I had a lot of fun playing "Knack 2." I was genuinely shocked at how good it was and how much I would turn on my PS4 just to

play.

If you have a friend or little sibling who would enjoy action platformers, I recommend picking this one up. However, if you are just playing it for jokes, I'd recommend getting it at a small price reduction, but you do get a lot of content on offer for the price tag.

As much as I don't like saying it, Knack is back, baby.

Student responds to drug testing opinion

ANONYMOUS STUDENT SUBMISSION

While it is your privacy to do what you want in your free time, you are still on campus where we have rules to follow.

And yes, I remember D.A.R.E. training in school. There is a small percent of us who are probably more than willing to admit they remember and actually care that they are here for our education.

Every week, the police have reports of drug violations. Instead of spending \$34 million on a building that

we don't know who will use yet, let's hire some extra police to patrol and clean up the problems on campus, including drugs and alcohol.

Have more shuttles for walking students throughout the day. Keep the drug testing to suspected problem students and athletes. If a student is worried about their privacy, maybe they need to leave campus and attend school from the privacy of their own home.

You will always have to follow rules, but there will always be someone who has to test the system.



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ECURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Photo by Gage Skidmore

U.S. Secretary of Education Besty DeVos announced changes to Title IX regulations Sept. 22. "This interim guidance will help schools as they work to combat sexual misconduct and will treat all students fairly," she said in a statement.

NSU Title IX Coordinator clears air

ZOE ALMARAZ

Reporter

Title IX is a federal law that was originally designed in 1972 to advance equality among college sports and activities. The law has expanded to include sexual assault and harassment with documents such as the "dear colleague letter" in 2011 and "Questions and Answers" in 2014.

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced Sept. 22 the department would rescind the previous administration's guidelines on Title IX and released an interim set of guidelines. Some members of the administration, including DeVos, feel as though the old guidelines focus too much on the complainants rather than due process for the respondents, i.e. the alleged perpetrators.

Many prominent government officials and victim's rights activists have come out against these new guidelines and the uncertainty they could cause. However, this is a temporary measure. The new official guidelines will include public comments and input from both victim's rights activists and respondent activists.

"In the coming months, hearing from survivors, campus administrators, parents, students and experts on sexual misconduct will be vital as we work to create a thoughtful rule that will benefit students for years to come," DeVos said in a press release on the Department of Education website.

Northwestern State's Title IX Coordinator Lori LeBlanc said overall the interpretation of the law is pretty much the same. As it stands currently, the interim guidelines allow NSU's current policy to remain unchanged.

The interim guidelines have extended the time limit to an endless amount of time to conduct an investigation, but the university will continue to strive for a resolution within sixty days. It also states the university should notify both parties during an investigation and additionally outlines the standards of evidence.

One standard is called 'preponderance of evidence,' which details that if it is concluded over 50 percent of the entire examined evidence points to wrongdoing, the respondent is responsible. Another type is 'clear and convincing evidence,'

which holds an even higher percentage and standard.

Most campuses, including NSU, currently use preponderance of evidence, although respondents argue that this standard makes it easier to find people guilty and is unfair.

The university upholds the regulations and guidelines laid out by Title IX, but there are nuances and gray areas in dealing with sexual assault and harassment which are taken into consideration for every case.

"This does recognize the rights of the respondents, but it still holds very strong the rights of the complainants and how we can deal with them," LeBlanc said. "It still allows all the accommodations like counseling, being able to move your housing [and] move your classes if necessary. It still gives us the right to do all that."

This guidance is similar to the previous administration, but this is only the interim guideline. With input from the public and other groups, official guidelines could potentially be very different.

As of right now, Northwestern State's policy towards Title IX will not change.

SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

The SGA Cabinet will travel to Washington, D.C., to attend the National Student Government Summit by the American Student Government Association Sept. 28 to Oct. 1.

President Tre Nelson said the ASGA holds a conference in New Orleans in the spring that SGA will attend.

Nelson said there are about 50 committee spots that need to be filled by students in the next week, such as those on the Disciplinary Committee, Parking and Traffic Committee, Committee on Organizations and Residential Life Committee.

Treasurer Aly Jacobs commented serving on a committee is one way to prepare for potential leadership roles in the future. "It's a great way to get your foot in [a] leadership position... and further work with people," she said.

Vice President Trey Roberts said five applications were submitted and approved for Organizational Relief Fund money.

Tom Rinaldi will speak Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium in the A.A. Fredericks Arts Center.

Sen. Ty Wright reminded the senate there will be a tailgate at the home football game Sept. 30 against Southeastern. The game will kick off at 6:30 p.m. in Turpin Stadium.

The Current and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance will host a First Amendment Panel Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. in the President's Room. Panelists include SGA President Tre Nelson, The Current Sauce Editor-in-Chief Alec Horton, FMLA President Meg Denny, African American Caucus Vice President Cherish Wilson, Professor of English Dr. Sarah McFarland and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Mark

SGA will not hold a meeting Oct. 2 due to Fall Break.

SEPT. 27, 2017 NEWS 3

Veteran journalist to give lecture

Tom Rinaldi will speak at Northwestern State University at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. A question and answer discussion will take place following the lecture, moderated by ESPN reporter and NSU alum Carley McCord.

Info courtesy of NSU News Bureau

Police Blotter

September 17

Welfare Concern 1940 hours University Place II Unfounded

September 18

Disturbance 1104 hours Student Tailgate Person removed

September 19

Property Damage 0612 hours Student Services

September 20

Simple Battery 0858 hours Off Campus

September 21

Welfare Concern 0952 hours Campus Student in good health

Theft

1827 hours University Columns

September 22

Theft 1313 hours Iberville

Drug Law Violation 1842 hours University Place II Unfounded

September 23

Property Damage 0001 hours University Columns

But what are the pros and cons of a growing university?

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

As student enrollment reaches an all-time high for Northwestern State University, faculty and administrators have started to explore the implications of an increased student population and effects on the Natchitoches campus.

President of NSU Dr. Chris Maggio attributed the increase in students to several aspects, including higher retention rates, campus improvements and academic programs – both new and expanded.

While this trend of increased enrollment is "certainly one of the most meaningful milestones in the university's long history," as Maggio said in the NSU News Bureau press release, concerns have been expressed.

Dr. Jim Mischler, department head of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies, said that while the increase is exciting, there are some challenges the department has already had to face.

"[The growth is] adding some energy and excitement to our department and the university," the associate professor of English said. "It's just making sure everyone is getting what they need educationally and in terms of safety and security." He explained that in order to teach effectively, their department tries to keep class sizes to 25 students. The Association of Departments of English, an organization network that connects English departments across the country, suggests 20 per section.

Classes such as Composition and Rhetoric have expanded sections of 30 students and raised the number of sections offered. The increase has also resulted in the creation of a University Studies course section specific to English majors, which did not previously exist.

He also pointed out that most rooms in Kyser Hall – where the department is located – can only hold about 30 people, making the issue of class size not only a concern regarding learning environment but one of physical capacity as well.

With the amount of sections growing, almost all faculty members in the department are working overload, according to Mischler. This means faculty are teaching more than their usual teaching load, which they must receive special permission to do.

"For me as department head, overload situation is something that we can absolutely, no problem, deal with in the short term," he said. "But... it gets much more difficult to do that, and if we get another increase next fall and we have the same number of faculty, that would be very, very hard [to deal with]."

Dr. Francene Lemoine touched on a positive outcome of increased enrollment as the director of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences, but she also expressed similar concerns.

"An increase in enrollment is great for the university as a whole because that brings in more tuition dollars, which can fund some new projects as well as some projects that have been postponed," she said.

The creation of additional course sections was necessary specifically with some laboratory classes, and the number of students in lecture-based courses has also increased, again leading faculty to teach overload.

Lemoine gave one example of the effects of high enrollment with the number of Nursing and Allied Health students who must take the Human Anatomy and Physiology I lab. While nine sections were available to 268 students in 2016, there are now 337 students and 11 sections of the course this fall.

Most departments teach core classes to all university students, so increased enrollment directly affects everyone.

Health and Human Performance Department Head Dr. John Dollar said the increase in students has been crucial for their programs and his department's expansion.

HHP has seen a growing interest in the pre-physical therapy program, and therefore by fall 2018 will offer doctoral programs for physical and occupational therapy.

"We have been able capitalize this on opportunity... [and] that and means that [HHP] Allied Health can now provide opportunities for Occupational and Physical Therapy degrees," he said.

Dr. Ali Ahmad, department head of Engineering Technology, also expressed positive implications coming from the new enrollment record – not just for the university, but life after academic careers.

"More students also means that we will have the opportunity to produce more contributing members to society, which will in turn improve the economic prosperity in the state," Ahmad said.

Maggio said meetings will take place in the coming weeks to address these issues, as well as others concerning infrastructure on the Natchitoches campus such as housing and expansion opportunities.

GIMME GIMME the crown

Jarlock named Miss Northwestern

HOLLY JENKINS *Reporter*

Winner of the 60th annual Lady of the Bracelet pageant Erika Jarlock tearfully accepted her crown in front of an audience of hundreds of people; a goal she had worked months for finally came to fruition.

This was Jarlock's fourth pageant and her second time competing in the Lady of the Bracelet pageant.

"I started preparing for LOB the moment I got out of Miss Louisiana last summer," she said. "I'm beyond thrilled to wear this bracelet and hope to represent NSU as well as the previous ladies."

Contestants must raise money for the Children's Miracle Network in order to compete. This year's contestants raised a combined \$2,150. The pageant awards the contestant who raises the most money with a \$250 scholarship – an accolade given to contestant Emily Bencosme, who raised \$524. Jarlock herself raised \$100, which she accomplished by taking money out of her paychecks each week.

In addition to the Children's Miracle Network, Jarlock advocates for school creative and performing arts programs. With her platform "Reaching for the arts; keeping all forms of art in our schools and communities," she hopes to increase awareness of the importance of children having access to creative outlets as a way of expanding education.

"This is an opportunity to raise awareness for my platform: the arts. What better place to do this than at the school that has the best fine arts program in the state?" she said.

The junior musical theatre major has loved the arts since her childhood. Her rendition of "Gimme Gimme" from Broadway musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie" – a song

she has sung since age 15 – won her the talent portion of Saturday's pageant.

Jourdan W First Runi

Beyond music, Jarlock loves theatre and dance.

"Without acting, singing isn't as powerful," she said. "If you can't tell the story with your face, how will the audience comprehend what your character is going through? I love being able to feel the words of a monologue or song and share it with others."

First runner-up and People's Choice recipient Jourdan Waddell was ecstatic while delivering her speech at the press conference following the pageant.

"This is my first pageant," she said. "Literally a month ago I was at an informational, and now I'm here. I'm so thankful for the sisterhood I've gained through this process."

Other scholarship winners included second runner-up Aly Jacobs, third runner-up and swimsuit portion winner Abigail Reynolds, fourth runner-up Reagan Escudé and Miss Congeniality Madison Farquhar.

First-place winner Jarlock will spend the next year representing NSU and compete in the 2018 Miss Louisiana pageant, as well as other events locally and across the state.

Miss Northwestern additionally wins free textbooks, a meal plan, \$1,000 cash and a free trip to the Miss Louisiana pageant. Sponsored by the Student Activities Board, the pageant has awarded thousands of dollars to winners throughout its 60-year existence.

In her farewell address, Miss Northwestern 2017 Maria Rome described her experience as "magical."

"This is such an important job. But more importantly, it is an honor," she said. "I have grown so much in these past few months, and I have learned that anything is possible if you dream big and work hard."



6 SPORTS SEPT. 27, 2017



Music major Jair Morelos Castilla practices with the Pittsburgh Phillies. Prior to his education at NSU, he played baseball in the minor leagues. Photo by Paul Connor

Morelos Castilla wears many caps

JORDAN REICH *Associate Editor*

From Colombia to the United States and from baseball to music, NSU student Jair Morelos Castilla has led a life of talents and travel following his dreams.

Born and raised in the coastal city of Cartagena, Colombia, he started his journey at the age of four to become a professional baseball player. When Morelos Castilla decided at ten years old that he wanted to play in the pros, he said training began non-stop.

"[I said], 'Let's start to practice like a professional.' That was day and night, day and night of just baseball... [and] always working for my dream," he said.

He received his first taste as a professional athlete when he signed a minor league contract with the Philadelphia Phillies in 2010 at 16 years old; he was assigned to the foreign rookie Venezuelan Summer League with the VSL Phillies.

Many professional players like Morelos Castilla start in the minor leagues as a stepping stone to Major League Baseball. Major league teams sign players to their affiliates to foster and improve their skills.

When he found out that he signed to a minor league team, Morelos Castilla said his father, a baseball coach and former player, was ecstatic.

"Oh, [he] was like crazy. My mom was a little worried [though]," he said. "My dad said... just go ahead and have fun and play baseball. Do what you know how to do."

After playing two seasons and winning the VSL Championship in 2012, Morelos Castilla moved to Florida to play as a rookie in the Gulf Coast League for the GCL Phillies and then with the Clearwater Threshers in the Florida State League, a Class A Advanced team.

His minor league baseball career came to a close in 2014 after he was released by the Williamsport Crosscutters. After four years, Morelos Castilla played a total of 157

games.

"It was I think the greatest time of my life – those four years that I played for them."

Though his minor league career came to a halt, Morelos Castilla said his dream of playing professionally isn't over.

"I just reached a little part of my dream... but the real dream is to play at the big leagues, so that's why I want to come back," he said.

He explained that professional baseball does not just teach technical skills; it also teaches practical lessons such as managing money and how to live alone at a young age.

"It [taught me]... how to be a man even when you're a kid [and] how to [learn] other cultures and another language," Morelos Castilla said.

"Baseball is kind of similar to life: You have to adjust. If you're not hitting, you have to go to the cage, and then you can reach that level. It's the same in life. If you're missing something, you have to work for that and make that adjustment."

For now, he finds himself in practice rooms and concert halls pursing his other passion: music. A senior music business and physical education double major, Morelos Castilla explained why he chose to chase his other dream after his professional baseball career ended.

"I think it's good to follow your dreams, but baseball also closed all the doors in my life," he said. "I just didn't have time to practice music [then]. That's why I decided to come back to college and [am] now spending time in music."

He said he owes part of his success at NSU to Associate Professor of Music Kenneth Green for helping him, calling Green "a person who understands each of his students."

"I am so grateful I got to play pro baseball so young, and now I'm ready for life no matter what happens," he said.

Morelos Castilla will join the Colombian National Team for the 18th Bolivarian Games Nov. 11-25 in Santa Maria, Colombia.

Tennis winds up for ULL Invitational

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

As September comes to a close, another Demon sports team's season begins. Lady Demon Tennis will compete in its first tournament of the year at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Invitational Sept. 29-30.

Though the official tennis season does not start until the spring, team members are already hard at work tweaking and perfecting their skills.

Junior Polina Mutel said she is excited for the upcoming tournament and explained that though it is not the official season yet, the fall tournaments are still important.

"Practice during the fall is probably more intense because we are working on our strategy, movements [and] conditioning," she said.

The team has a diverse roster, including six international students from Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain and Ukraine.

Mutel, from Yaroslavl, Russia, has played tennis for 16 years. She chose NSU to play collegiate tennis because she knew the coach, Olga Bazhanova, was Russian and felt it would be easier to work with her.

"I knew some players, [too], so I knew that the team was going to be really good," she said.

Bazhanova was at NSU for nine years as a player, assistant coach and then as the head tennis coach for three seasons before stepping down in May 2017. She led the Lady Demons to the final round of six Southland Conference tournaments.

Mutel said the team has become like a family to her and that her confidence has grown since joining the Lady Demons. Though she gets nervous for tournaments, she knows she can rely on her teammates.

"Even though I'm a junior, I still get nervous...but it is still fun to play," she said. "I just want to...know that I did everything that I could [during a match]."

Though all four of the tournaments in the fall season are away from home, scores and game recaps will be posted on nsudemons.com

<u>| SEPT. 27, 2017</u> **ARTS&LIVING**

Theatre to debut 'Stars of Tomorrow' Wednesday

ZOE ALMARAZ

Reporter

ith the stage set, songs rehearsed, costumes made and performers ready to show off their talent, NSU Theatre presents its first production of the semester, "Stars of Tomorrow."

Instead of a traditional musical similar to those performed in years past, "Stars of Tomorrow" will feature 12 students, each performing a song from a different musical showcasing their talent.

After the audition process in April 2017, each student selected for the production chose three dream roles; from those, director Dr. Corey Trahan built the show.

"I picked people who I felt could

hold their own on stage, meaning we have everybody from seniors to sophomores," he said. "Whenever they get on stage, you can't take your eyes off of them."

The show contains a mixture of older songs, contemporary songs, vocals and dancing split into solos, duets and group numbers. Additionally, it will be one of the only times theatre students will perform with a live band – also student comprised - as a way of collaborating between disciplines.

Trahan said the public should be aware that this show is not a known musical; it is a new concept. However, the repertoire will be recognizable, and there will be something for everyone, including selections from musicals such as "A Chorus Line," "Dear Evan

Hansen," "Little Shop of Horrors" and Addison Hinson. "West Side Story."

Theatre major Dwight Robinette said his experience with "Stars of Tomorrow" has been different from previous musicals because the focus is on the student rather than the character.

'We're able to create what we want to do," he said. "There's no lead or ensemble. We're all the lead, and we're all the ensemble."

The cast is smaller than a typical production, which led to a greater sense of camaraderie between the performers.

Since the show is so focused on individual pieces rather than an overarching story, it has been a fairly quick process, according to senior

"We started literally the day we got back, and we've just hit the ground running," he said.

He went on to express that this musical was very enjoyable to work on due to the musical selection and how flexible their rehearsal schedule was. The production style allowed students to rehearse in blocks and focus on each song rather than telling a story from beginning to end.

The show also doubles as a recruitment method since it will tour to promote interest in the musical theatre

"Stars of Tomorrow" will open Sept. 27 and run until Oct. 1 in Theatre West. More information is available at capa. nsula.edu



The Eyes of Argus

Normal Hill

BAYLEA JONES

Argus 2011- Perspectives

I walk the shaded path beneath the old oak tree. I marvel at its limp and tired branches, and step upon its fallen leaves. I follow the cracked concrete up the cold, stone steps. I ascend the rock staircase and try to catch my breath. I stare out into the open field. I see the fountain flow. The water trickles down the bricks, its stream so calm and slow. I turn my gaze the other way and look up a little high. Three white columns stand tall and tower into the sky. There's a world just beyond it. But here atop this hill the modern world is lost, and history stands still.

Submit your writing, fine art or photography to https://argusnsu.submittable.com/submit by Dec. 1 for a chance to be published in the 2018 edition of Argus.

NEWS

Varnado residents upset over conditions

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

Northwestern State University spent a year renovating Varnado Hall to be a designated living learning center for Creative and Performing Arts students. Residents moved in over a month ago, yet residents are still waiting for promised amenities to be completed.

Potential residents were enticed with 24-hour computer labs, soundproof practice rooms and close access to CAPA classes. While spirits were high during move-in, residents soon started complaining about policies and the lack of finished spaces in the dorm.

Theatre major Alexis Mancuso loves the community feel of Varnado but is disappointed in the lack of communication between residents and housing.

"The rooms themselves looked great, but it was weird to walk through halls with temporary flooring and caution tape," she said. "It would have been better if housing was more upfront and told us upon signing our leases that some things wouldn't be ready."

According to Mancuso, the art studio is not furnished, no computer lab has been opened and the rehearsal rooms are still not ready; school started over a month

ago.
"We also didn't have working showers the first three days I was here and didn't have hot water for at least two weeks. Multiple people, including me and my roommate, don't have properly draining sinks," Mancuso said.

CLV spokespersons and Faculty Rector Leslie Gruesbeck refuted claims that the space was supposed to be finished by move-in.

"CLV and/or CAPA has not failed in any way to keep a promise as the renovation schedule for the facility has always shown that there would be a staged completion of spaces based on the purpose of each space," they

Other than the lack of complete amenities, residents are also upset at the guest policy of the dorms.

Maximilian Hibbs, business administration major, is very frustrated by the regulations in Varnado.

"There are many rules that make me feel like I don't have freedom or privacy," he said. "We have to check in guests unless they live in the same wing of Varnado with us, and we have to turn our IDs in to do so."



Photo by Justin Burr

Hannah Brinkmeier uses her key fob to open the door to a wing of Varnado Hall.

Students living in the other on-campus dorms have no such policy. Residents are free to have guests as long as their roommate agrees to it.

According to campus housing, the only requirements for guests are that they are at least 18, they should leave the dorms by 11 p.m. and must be with the resident at

"Please visit with your roommate(s) on this subject. Guests, both male and female, may not infringe on the rights of your roommate."

Students are unsure of why Varnado has a stricter policy that requires guests and residents to turn in their ĪDs.

CLV explained that the policy was in place for student safety.

"While in the other [dorms] you have to get in through a gate and then get in through a locked door to get into a room and a bathroom, at Varnado, we have up to 34 residents who share a bathroom," they said. "Having our residents feel comfortable to go to the bathroom and to shower is important."

'I'm upset about being treated like a child in my own home," Hibbs said. "I couldn't say I recommend living in Varnado to anyone."

Any questions about the timeline of Varnado's completion can be directed to the Faculty Rector Leslie Gruesbeck or Assistant Director of Housing Jim George.

FIRST AMENDMENT PANEL

10/4/2017

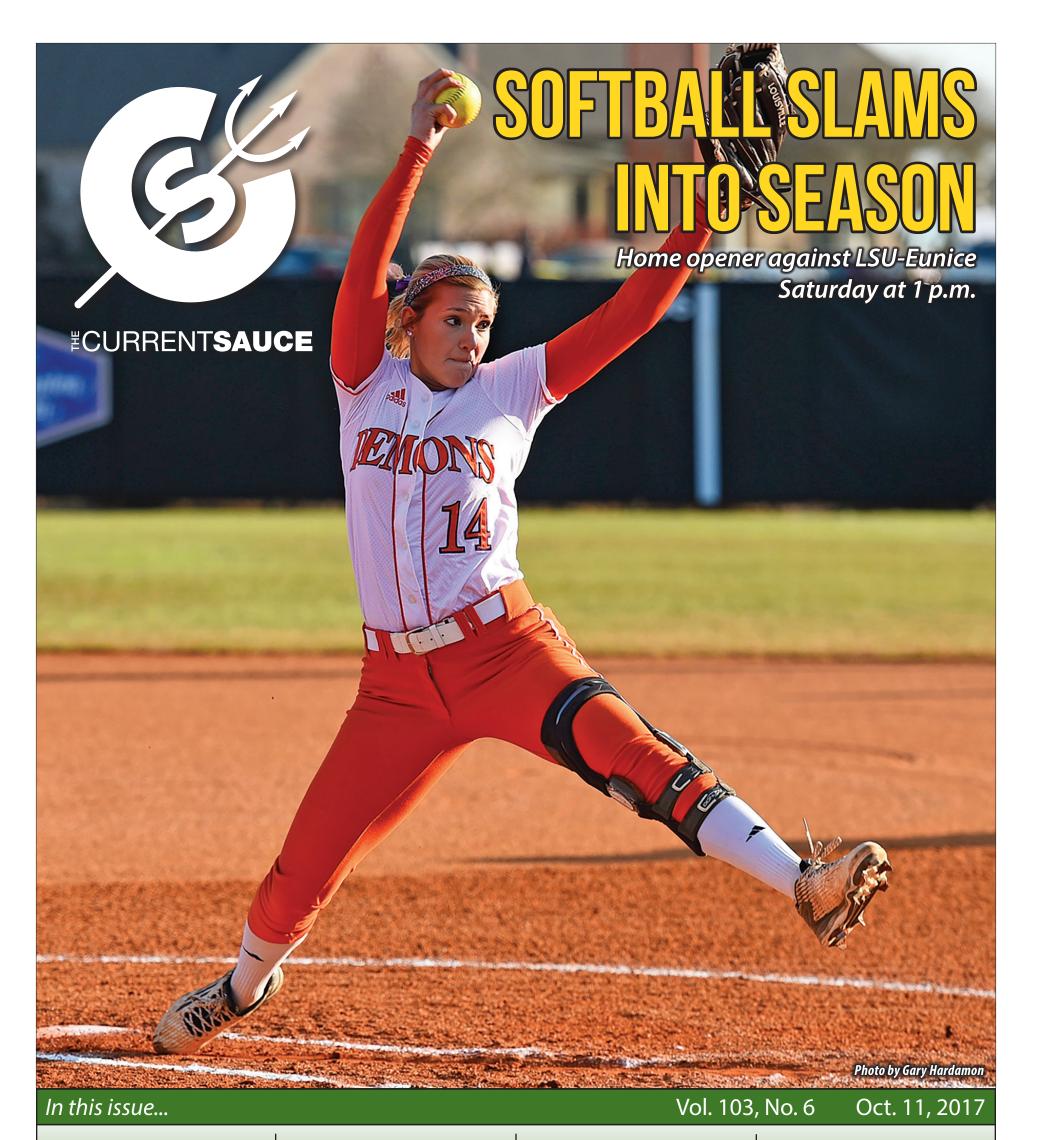
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

SGA PRESIDENT TRE NELSON **FMLA PRESIDENT MEG DENNY** PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH DR. SARAH MCFARLAND THE CURRENT SAUCE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALEC HORTON **AFRICAN AMERICAN CAUCUS VICE PRESIDENT CHERISH WILSON** ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE DR. MARK MELDER









NEWS

Demons Support Demons hosts 'Week of Action'

ARTS&LIVING

Jazz Orchestra to perform first fall concert

SPORTS

Soccer and Football fall short in weekend games

OPINION

Sexual assault prominent on college campuses

October 1

Liquor Law Violations 0211 hours Caspari Street Citation issued

Disturbance 0925 hours University Columns

Possible Fire 2024 hours University Columns Malfunctioning microwave

October 3

0104 hours South Jefferson Street

Warrant Arrest 1447 hours University Columns Arrestee held for transport

October 4

Hazing Complaint 0939 hours Off campus

Unauthorized Student ID

1153 hours On campus

Social Media Disturbance 1238 hours **University Columns**

Disturbance 1526 hours St. Denis Hall

Missing Student 1553 hours University Place II Student found

October 5

DWI

0353 hours South Jefferson Street Arrest made

Theft 1618 hours

CAPA

Drug Law Violation 2044 hours University Place II Residents referred for discipline

October 6

Burglary 0731 hours St. Denis Hall

Hit and Run 0912 hours Parking Lot 25 Suspect identified

Theft 0916 hours Kyser Hall

Property Damage 2033 hours University Place I Parking

Police Blotter Panel discusses student rights, media bias

ZOE ALMARAZ

Reporter

he Current Sauce and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance hosted a panel last week on First Amendment rights and related issues in our society.

The event began discussing problems panelists deal with in their roles on campus and thoughts on policies at Northwestern University. While members agreed NSU mostly acknowledges and respects students' rights, Student Government Association President Tre Nelson brought up an issue regarding due process.

"Sometimes administrators can be kind of quick to say, 'Okay, well I heard this rumor about you or your group of people, and here's a punishment," he said.

not conducting a investigation before doling consequences, administration could possibly violate a student's free speech and assembly rights.

Adding onto that was Associate Professor Criminal Justice Dr. Mark Melder who discussed students' awareness of their rights. He said they do not typically know their rights because they have not learned about them in school.

"We get very confused about free speech and what that actually means; free speech means you have to listen to people even if you don't like them," he said.

There have been instances protest and counterprotest from both sides of the political aisle which have deepened tensions across the nation. One key debate is whether people have the right to say what they want even when facts are not used to substantiate their claims.

The panel then went on to discuss freedom of the press and the trend of labeling "fake

"A free press isn't afraid to admit its mistakes, and that's really its strength," said Alec

Horton, editor-in-chief of The Current Sauce, on news outlets' occasional errors. "I think the press is stronger now than ever. I'm glad the president is attacking the media because it really makes us look at our fact-checking processes, where we're getting our information and being even more strong in our [reporting]."

While discussing whether the media should be biased and what forms bias can Wilson, Cherish take. African American Caucus vice president, offered her perspective.

"Everyone should have their time to tell the story they want to tell without being targeted just because a certain person doesn't agree with what they're saying," she said.

Professor of English Dr. Sarah McFarland brought up the topic of social media and its role in the news cycle. A large portion of people get their news from social media websites and don't fact check, which can lead to misguided

dialogue. There are many websites made to trick people into believing conspiracy theories or lies about a candidate or organization that people often take as verified facts.

The climate social has impacted the First Amendment and the way people perceive others, which was discussed by Nelson and Wilson who talked about different demographics on campuses and peaceful protesting. Both of these issues are relevant since speech can affect certain groups in different ways, and peaceful protesting can quickly turn violent due to society's view toward protesters.

The panel ended with an audience question about hate speech and whether private businesses should be able to regulate speech. There is often disagreement about where to draw the line and who gets to draw it.

Video from the panel is available on The Current Sauce's Facebook page.

Students act against sexual assault

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

This week, Demons Support Demons is taking a stand against sexual assault by hosting the It's On Us Week of Action.

Though the Slut Walk, Speed Dating and Quiz on the Street have already passed, there are still two opportunities left to participate in this week's initiative.

DSD will have a table Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Student Union with free items and a pledge to be proactive in ending sexual assault.

Later that evening, the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and Pride will host a Queer Prom in the Student Union Ballroom from 7:30 -10 p.m. Tickets are \$10 with all proceeds going to BreakOUT!, a charity that aims to support LGBTQ youth in New Orleans.

Membership in DSD is open to all NSU students. The next meeting is Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. on the third floor of the Student Union.

"I've seen Demons Support Demons truly change the way students view consent and accountability, and I want to do more to find out what else we can accomplish," DSD President Ashlyn Guidry said.



Photo by Ashlyn Guidry

Jordan Reich, Caleb Howell, Logan Turner and Melissa Polizzi participate in the second annual Slut Walk. One purpose of the march is to remove negative connotation from the word "slut."

OCT. 11, 2017 ARTS&LIVING 3



The Eyes of Argus

Listening

JACK B. BEDELL

Former Editor-in-Chief of Argus, 1987 Current Poet Laureate of Louisiana

"Nobody ever listens," he said to himself Knowing that the only ears to perk up Whenever he made a noise Were in the cornfield behind the porch Where he spend his twenty-four hour days Kicking the pot-licking hound between his legs, Telling it to make something of its time Before the wrinkles on its forehead Covered up its eyes, Asking it if it remembered Many moons ago When it could run down a rabbit Until the sun went away and still have the strength To sire a litter, or two, And remembering himself.

Submit your writing, fine art or photography to https://argusnsu.submittable.com/submit by Dec. 1 for a chance to be published in the 2018 edition of Argus.

KNWD to host Halloween event

JACOB FARNSLEY

KNWD News Coordinator

Students can show off their pumpkin carving talents with KNWD's annual Attack of the Jack-o'-Lanterns Oct. 13 at the Alumni Plaza from 5-7 p.m.

KNWD will set the stage with a spooky playlist, door prizes, KNWD swag giveaways and frightening games. Pumpkins will be available to carve on a first-come, first-serve basis, so pre-carving pumpkins to bring to the event is encouraged.

The grand prize for the pumpkin carving contest includes two VOODOO Music & Arts Experience tickets. Prizes will also be awarded to the second and third place winners. Door prizes include KNWD swag bags and VIP tickets to NSU Theatre's Oct. 25 production of The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

KNWD General Manager Noah Baudoin and KNWD Public Relations Director Candice Richardson planned this year's Attack of the Jack-o'-Lanterns differently than those held in the past.

"This is the first year we have not worked with SAB," Baudoin said. "I'm excited to see how KNWD performs and how the students respond."

Jazz Orchestra makes season debut

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

The Northwestern State University Jazz Orchestra will take the stage Oct. 11 for the first time this semester after months of practice and rehearsal. With a diverse music selection and range of talent, the concert will incorporate both familiar and foreign pieces in what will be a unique first performance.

Sophomore trumpet player Lane Clevenger joined the ensemble because of the extensive jazz culture he grew up around in New Orleans.

"[Jazz] is everywhere... You just hear fat trumpet sounds all the time. You always hear jazz," he said.

Sophomore Laura Lovell said she got a taste of jazz band in high school and jumped at the opportunity to join a group at the collegiate level.

Lovell enjoys the thrill of performing at concerts because she can hear the finished product knowing how much work went into the piece.

"I love performing so much," the saxophonist said. "There's no other feeling like it."

Jazz music differs from other genres because of its intense rhythms and relaxed feel.

"Stylistically, there's nothing like [jazz]. Everything you learn



The Jazz Orchestra rehearses for its upcoming concert in the band room. Photo by Sean McGraw

classically goes out the window," Clevenger said.

Junior trombonist Michael King echoed Clevenger's thoughts about the genre.

"I liked the way jazz grooved. Then I did it and realized it's a lot harder than I anticipated," he said.

The ensemble will incorporate a selection of Latin-based music due to the large number of Columbian students in the ensemble. According to Clevenger, the Columbian students really thrive on those particular pieces.

Clevenger, King and Lovell all said they were excited to play Louis Prima's "Sing, Sing, Sing." King said he is particularly eager to perform this song because it has been familiar to him for a while.

Lovell is looking forward to playing "Fascinating Rhythm" by Ira and George Gershwin.

"It's very accurately named," Lovell said. "It's going to be groovin'."

Other pieces include "Secret Love" by Paul Francis Webster and Sammy Fain, "Cute" by Neal Hefti and a Roger Holmes arrangement of "Everyday I Have the Blues."

"There's going to be a lot of energy," Lovell said. "There's going to be some really cool pieces some people should [also] recognize."

The jazz band concert will be held Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall and is open to the public. Questions can be directed to the CAPA office at 318-357-4522.

Spirit of Northwestern travels to Texas

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

From the outside looking in, the recent Sprit of Northwestern marching band trip to Mesquite High School in Mesquite, Texas, looks like a recruitment tool above all else, but the trek out of state is more than what meets the eye.

Associate Director of Bands Dan McDonald explained the significance of traveling to areas both within and outside Louisiana.

"We love playing for football games, pep rallies, and all of those things, but we go to these exhibitions because it is our type of people," he said.

People in the stands at exhibitions understand how it feels to perform under the bright lights and to play their hearts out, which makes the performance special. It also

allows band members to look back at their roots.

"The current band students get to perform in front of their high school bands and their directors," he said. "So it is something special for them."

At events such as the Mesquite exhibition, McDonald notices a slight difference in the band as a whole.

"Everyone just turns it on: You can tell there's 10 to 20 percent more energy with our band [members], which means the band will perform even better," the director said.

An obvious difference performing at home compared to playing on the road is the new atmosphere.

"[It is a] totally different environment; it switches things up on us," McDonald said.

The unfamiliar environment is not the only challenge band members face; they also face grueling hours of preparation every week.

"We're always looking to have a great show no matter what, but each week we might add small things here and there," McDonald said. "We're always looking to be better."

According to band member Jordan Davis, the demanding schedule is worth the friendships made and new experiences.

"It's a family. We always get onto each other a little bit, but we're all brothers and sisters in music," the junior sousaphonist said. "We go through the worst of marching band and the best of marching band together, and it makes us stronger."

The Spirit of Northwestern will perform Oct. 20 at the Homecoming Pep Rally. A full performance schedule can be viewed at capa.nsula.edu/music/spirit-of-northwestern/

SYMPHONY'S

Orchestra kicks off concert season with 'Sea Sounds'

Holly Jenkins

Reporter

"Music has a big message. It brings the community support."

These are the words of Director of Orchestras Dr. Douglas Bakenhus. Having worked at NSU for over a decade, Bakenhus describes the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra as an organization that brings soul to the community.

Throughout the semester, the orchestra performs at various events on and off campus. The ensemble performed their first concert of the semester Oct. 5, the annual "Pops" concert in Magale Recital Hall. The concert's theme, "Sea Sounds," featured music by Tchaikovsky and Handel, as well as NSU alumna Nettie Chenevert.

Former symphony society president Richard Rose says that when the orchestra was founded in the 1960s, it recruited professional strings players from Shreveport and Monroe in addition to student players. It wasn't until the mid '90s that it became a student-oriented ensemble.

Some students in orchestra receive a scholarship for their participation, which is funded by the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Society. The NNSS aims to provide a secure financial foundation for orchestra students.

In an April article for the Natchitoches Parish Journal, Director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts Dr. Greg Handel describes the NNSS as essential to the orchestra.

"They have fostered a love and support of symphony music and artistic endeavors," he says. "As an organization, they have supported NSU and the Creative and Performing Arts with fundraising and scholarship support for our strings students."

Fundraisers and events, such as an annual wine and cheese party, are held throughout the year to encourage support for the orchestra. At these events, people are able to become members of the NNSS, which gives them season passes to Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony concerts.

Annually, the NNSS brings in roughly \$40,000 in donations, which is used entirely for scholarship funding.

The next orchestra concerts will occur Oct. 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall where they will collaborate with the NSU Opera Workshop to perform Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro."

"The symphony society is responsible for an artistic spirit on campus and throughout the community that is rarely seen in places similar to NSU and Natchitoches," Handel says. "CAPA looks forward to continued growth and partnerships with the symphony society and we wish them well on a fruitful next 50 years."



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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Soccer attempts to improve record

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

As the season nears its end, the Northwestern State University Lady Demon Soccer team fights to overcome a less-than-stellar start to their 2017 season. The upward climb began with a three game home stretch beginning Oct. 6 against Sam Houston State.

With a record of five wins and eight losses, the losses have impacted the team, but they are not allowing themselves to dwell on the past. Instead, they are choosing to focus on the games to come.

"We are in a good place, but we are agitated where we are at right now," Head Coach George Van Linder said. "We are pretty hungry and frustrated for letting a few good opportunities slip by us."

Senior defender Sage Leffew reflected on the season as well.

"Our mentality is pretty good coming in; we just need to get better at the minor details," she said.

As well as looking to the future, the team is focusing and fixing small details to help them win.

"The last couple of games we switched formations, so everybody is getting in the swing of what they are supposed to do," Leffew said.

Formation is not the only



Photo by Chris Reich

Senior defender Sage Leffew wears a pink jersey as part of the "Fork Cancer" breast cancer awareness campaign. Despite having 24 shots on goal in Friday's game, the Demons only managed one point against the Bearkats.

aspect the team is focusing on. Leffew and Van Linder both mentioned winning each 50/50 ball is a goal set at each game, along with understanding how each player fits into the team.

"Our upperclassmen have realized that they have to lead," Van Linder said. "Our underclassmen have [also] realized that they have to play a bigger role, and the responsibility of winning has fallen on them as well."

The ultimate goal of each season is to reach the Southland Conference

Tournament, which hosts the top eight conference teams in an all-or-nothing, one game knockout tournament.

"If we get to the conference tournament, whoever we face, we feel like we [will] give them a good game and possibly win it," Van Linder said.

Describing the season in one word, Leffew and Van Linder chose "fight" and "educational."

"We just have to battle and fight and challenge any opponent," the defender said.

Van Linder agreed with the senior.

"We have learned a lot about ourselves as a team, and we learned what we need to do to win and the desire in ourselves," the coach said.

Although the first half of the season has been challenging, the Lady Demons are not losing heart.

"The view of the team is getting better; our attitudes are getting better. We are trying to keep it positive," Leffew said. "Don't count us out yet."

The Lady Demons will face Houston Baptist Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Lady Demon Soccer Complex.

Thomas, Demons agonizing over late loss to Colonels

DOUG IRELAND

NSU Sports Information Director

NATCHITOCHES – Alter any one of dozens of plays from Northwestern State's 14-10 loss Saturday at Nicholls, and the Demons would have ridden home happy.

The agony of defeat was especially harsh, giving up the decisive touchdown with 3:54 remaining and suffering a clinching interception at the Colonels 25 with a minute to go, said NSU coach Jay Thomas on Sunday.

"When you lose a game, it tears your guts out. A close one down to the wire, it cuts you in half," he said. "It hurts. It hurts badly.

"We've got good guys on this team who work hard, good coaches, good support. Academics, character, conduct, community service, every box is checked but one and we're working hard to get the winning going," said Thomas, whose team dipped to 1-4 overall, 1-2 in the Southland.

"Some parts of the game are beyond your control. They punt in the fourth quarter from the 50, it looks like it's rolling into the end zone, then it takes a sideways bounce and goes out inside the 1. That sets up a short field and they go in for the winning touchdown. Also in the fourth quarter, we force a fumble, we've got guys around it, and somehow we don't get it. Those were a couple of the critical breaks that went the other way."

While the Purple Swarm defense kept the Colonels in check nearly all the way, pivotal errors were devastating.

"In a ballgame like this, mistakes are magnified. On their two scoring drives, at the beginning and end of the game, we had missed tackles and we had critical penalties. Our cornerback slipped and

fell on their big pass play on third-and-17," Thomas said. "Almost everything else in between, we won."

Watching game tape, Thomas saw plenty of winning efforts.

"There was a lot of positive play, particularly on the defense and special teams. Some offensive guys played very well, like [lineman Chris] Zirkle, who is very consistent week after week," he said. "There were some good performances, but not enough consistency on that side of the ball."

Visit nsudemons.com for the full story.

OCT. 11, 2017 OPINION 7

The college 'hunting ground'

SAMANTHA CLARK

Opinion Columnist

Rape. It's that ugly, scary word we don't really like to talk about because it makes us uncomfortable.

Everyone knows what it is. Or do they?

Rape is another word for a form of sexual assault. Louisiana State Law defines sexual assault as nonconsensual sexual intercourse or nonconsensual sexual contact. This leads to another question. What is consensual sex?

The line of consent can be blurred when other factors, such as alcohol intake and relationship status, get thrown into the mix.

The Washington Post and Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a 2015 poll that is one of the most widespread and recent studies conducted on sexual assault, and one aspect it analyzes is college students' views on what consent is.

The study found college students are divided on consent's definition; at least 40 percent said consent is given through the action while another 40 percent disagreed.

Let me make one thing clear: Consent must be given soberly from beginning to end in every individual instance.

Being in a relationship does not automatically guarantee consent. Having sex with an individual before does not guarantee consent every time the two parties engage in sexual activity.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time. It can be denied at any time. Consent is not something owed to you.

Northwestern State University's Student Handbook states the following:

"Assent does not constitute Consent if obtained through Coercion or from an individual whom the Alleged Offender knows or reasonably should know is Incapacitated."

Let's break that down.

Coercing someone to engage in sexual contact or intercourse includes using threats or physical power that make an individual believe he or she is in harm and also includes consciously impairing someone's ability to give consent prior to initiating the sexual act.

An individual is incapacitated if he or she is obviously unable to make a knowing and deliberate choice to engage in sexual activity. This includes, but is not limited to, the inability to communicate coherent thoughts, inability to dress or undress, slurred speech, etc.

This information should sound somewhat familiar. All NSU students are required to complete My Student Body tests and attend a Title IX lecture in their UNIV 1000 classes.



Photo by Patrik Nygren

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. There are 10 key areas addressed by this law, one of which is sexual harassment.

Even though campus sexual assault policies are taught in freshman classes, what is the likelihood every student will remember all the information?

I have had multiple professors brush aside going over the Title IX policy in their syllabi to start teaching class material, to let students out of class early on the first day, or because it's just been said so many times before.

Am I the only one who sees something wrong with the lack of discussion about sexual assault, especially on college campuses?

One in five women and 5 percent of men will be raped during their time in college, and it will usually occur during their freshman or sophomore year by someone they know.

Were you taught about the red zone, the first four to six weeks of freshman year where students are more likely to be raped or experience attempted rape? Did you learn about the process of reporting sexual assault and how there are two separate ones depending on which plan of action a complainant takes?

The fact that this information is not universal knowledge absolutely scares me. The scariest thing is that most sexual assaults on college campuses go unreported.

Could anyone guess why that is? For some universities, it is about maintaining a faux image of safety on and around campus. The first college that starts publicly acknowledging the reality of sexual assault on its campus

will have the reputation of being the "rape college," but sexual assault occurs on every college campus.

Imagine getting a letter from your university the summer before your first semester that sounds something like this: "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Clark, we are so excited Samantha has decided to attend XYZ University! We figured you should know that she has a one in five chance of getting sexually assaulted during her time on campus, and the frustrating part is the rapists are other students. Thanks for your money, and we'll see you in the fall!"

What parent would want to send their child to that school?

Universities also have financial reasons to not publicize true numbers. Offenders who are found responsible for sexual assault often sue the college rather than survivors, so the institution will do whatever it takes to not bring on a lawsuit, resulting in minimal punishment.

Sanctions universities nationally have given include the following: suspension during summer vacation, Indiana University; a \$75 fine, University of Colorado Boulder; and a 500-word essay, Gustavus Adolphus College.

These punishments reflect universities treating sexual assault as unserious.

While addressing issues with sexual assault on college campuses, this article is not meant to be a quick fix and enlighten all 10,572 students enrolled at NSU. It's meant to start the conversation that isn't happening.

If you want more information on how to report sexual assault or what constitutes sexual assault, visit itsonus. org. Students can also call NSU's counseling office at 318-357-5621 or visit Student Union room 305.

Awareness is your duty

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

Nothing angers me quite like people – *especially* government officials – who couldn't be bothered to keep up with the news – *especially* local news.

One competitor in this year's Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet pageant was asked in a pre-show interview what our most recent newspaper featured on the cover. She didn't know the answer and allegedly told a friend afterward, "How the f— am I supposed to know that?"

Apathy is poison to society. Remember that.

You'd think student leaders would pick up our newspaper and read about what's happening on campus before they make decisions that affect the student body. Or maybe my hunch is correct: Some of them serve themselves under the guise of school spirit and use "fork 'em!" like a toddler uses crayons – aggressively, and too damn much.

A dedicated team of students works tirelessly to tell this campus' stories not only to inform but to hopefully spark muchneeded conversations in our community on issues both local and national.

If you think choosing one media outlet to follow is a smart move, think again.

Just on this campus, we have The Current Sauce, KNWD, Sports Information and the News Bureau regularly publishing or broadcasting news. Not a single one of these entities can possibly cover as many things by ourselves as we can working together. To be a well-informed NSU student, I suggest keeping up with all of these outlets, plus the Natchitoches Times and the Natchitoches Parish Journal.

To clarify, "keeping up" doesn't mean reading everything we publish; there's just not enough time in the day. Pick up a newspaper or open up a web browser, and let your interests do the filtering.





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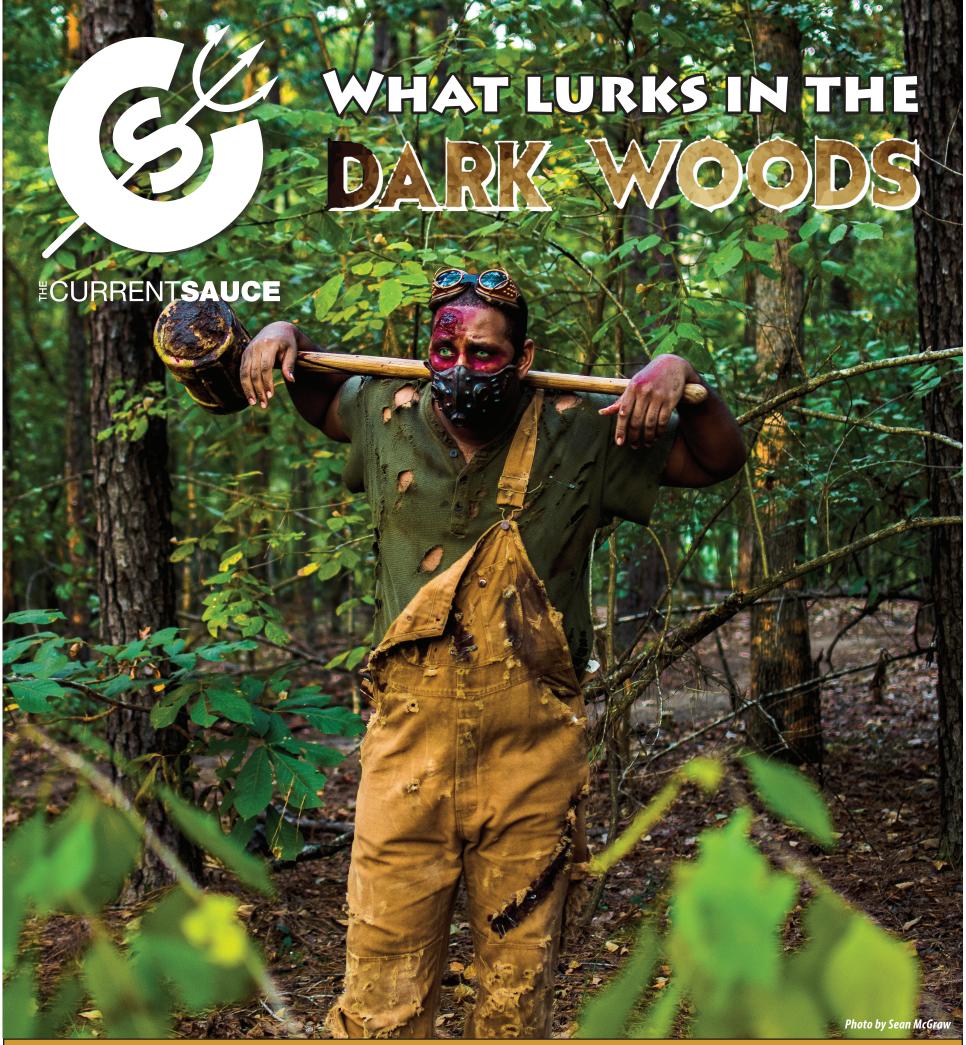
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Property Damage 0919 hours University Columns

Disturbance 2307 hours University Place I Warning given for noise

October 11

Drug Law Violation 2228 hours University Place I Referred for discipline

October 15

Drug Law Violation 2131 hours University Columns **MELISSA TAYLOR ZOE ALMARAZ**

Reporters

he former College Inn across from the Sam Sibley Drive entrance to NSU has been renovated into another option for offcampus housing.

Freshman business administration major Robert Rice moved into an apartment at the new Cottage at Cane River because on-campus housing options were full. Though he is pleased to live so close to campus, he said his apartment is not worth the \$550 price point.

place certainly doesn't hold up to its upscale-living claims," he said.

Rice said his apartment was not completed until Aug. 24, three days after This place certainly doesn't hold up to its upscale-living claims.

- Robert Rice

classes started.

There are three different choices for apartment sizes available; two of these are single person, and one contains two beds. All three come with desks.

Similar to residents of Varnado Hall, cottage tenants have noticed a lack of amenities upon move-in.

"We don't have a pool; we have a hole where a pool could be," Rice said.

The website for apartment complex says, "our clubhouse and pool are a great place for residents to relax, exercise, or prepare a gourmet meal," implying these amenities are currently available to residents.

According to residents, the building did not have water for a week, and the washing machine has locked people's clothes into it.

The security of the complexisalsoquestionable to some residents. Some students did not have door locks until October.

"Despite repeated requests, they did not put a lock on my door until Sunday [Oct. 8]... That means I [had] been living with no lock and no sense of security even after I notified and asked them about it frequently," Rice

"They messed my lock 318-352-4426.

up, and now I can't lock my top lock," resident Chante' Green said. "At least every few days my key won't work, so I have to either leave my door open or put tissue under the door itself."

Rice said when he moved into his apartment, bugs were everywhere; though he was told poison would be sprayed, he purchased his own.

"The people that waited for them to do it would get their rooms sprayed two or three weeks later," he said.

Michael Klein. affiliate of Cottage at Cane River, refused to answer questions over the phone and did not respond to interview requests email.

For more information, visit cottagensu.com or call

Porter Forum brings alumni speakers

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

The 51st annual J. Walter Porter Forum organized by the School of Business will be held Oct. 19 in Russell Hall featuring three Northwestern State alumni speakers. This year's theme, "It's Not Business as Usual," seeks to inspire students to go the extra mile to stand out in the job market.

The Porter Forum originated as a tribute to the life and legacy of J. Walter Porter, a businessman hailing from Texas that sought to "bridge the gap" between the business industry and students at the collegiate level. Following his death in 1965, his family chose Northwestern State, a school with which they had no former ties with, to host the forum.

Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, director and dean of the School of Business, explained the forum is a way for students to network and interact with business professionals. They can learn what the expectations are for future employment and gain knowledge on how to prepare for life after their undergraduate careers.

Kilcoyne also said alumni and others in the business industry are able to use the forum as a platform to give advice to students.

"[Speakers will say,] 'Let me tell you what it was like,' or 'I wish I would've paid attention to this," she said. "It's a win-win [situation] for everybody."

Speakers this year are Rob Robertson, Nikki Ceasar Small and Tommy Wright - NSU alumni proving successful in their field. Robertson is currently employed by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage; Small serves as the associate director of graduate admissions at Northwood University; and Wright works for RSM US and sits on the board of the NSU Foundation.

The event will begin at 9:40 a.m. in Room 107 of Russell Hall and conclude with a luncheon at 12:15 p.m. in the Natchitoches Room.

More information about the Porter Forum is available at business.nsula.edu/j-walterporter-forum. Questions can be directed to Dr. Carmella Parker, assistant professor and coordinator of outreach and special projects, at parkerc@nsula.edu

Poole family establishes scholarship

LEAH JACKSON

NSU Information Services Director

NATCHITOCHES - A Natchitoches family with deep roots in Northwestern State University Athletics has created a scholarship to benefit a studentathlete. Bill Poole created the endowed scholarship in honor of his parents, NSU alumni Dan and Nelwyn Poole.

The Dan and Nelwyn Poole Scholarship will be awarded either to a student-athlete who is an incoming freshman that will be used for summer school before his or her scholarship begins in the fall or to a former student-athlete who has finished out his or her athletic eligibility, but has not yet finished coursework to graduate. Dan Poole, affectionately called Coach Poole, coached and taught in Natchitoches for many years, at Natchitoches Central High School and at Northwestern State.

"The ideal recipient would be someone who would not be able to attend college unless there was some help along the way," Bill Poole said. "Maybe someone who needs help attending summer school when athletic scholarships don't help. We've all received a helping hand in some way, we just want to give back so that others will have an opportunity to experience Northwestern the way that our family has."

Both Dan and Nelwyn Poole attended Northwestern State from 1948-52 and were Health and Physical Education majors, even though they taught math most of their careers. While teaching in Natchitoches Parish, both were student teacher supervisors through NSU's Department of Education.

Dan Poole loved football and asked Coach Harry "Rags" Turpin if he would go out for the team. Turpin issued him equipment and he played four years. After freshman football, he asked Coach H. Lee Prather if he could go out for basketball. Prather issued Poole some shoes and he played three years with the Demons. His favorite memory of athletics at NSU was being a member of the 1948-49 basketball team. Poole also joined the track team led by Coach Walter Ledet for four years, competing in high and low hurdles, high jump and the mile relay, now called the 4×400 .

"It's possible Dad is the only athlete, or one of a few, who played for Coaches Turpin, Prather and Ledet while they were head coaches. All three now have a facility named after them: Turpin Stadium, Prather Coliseum and the Ledet Track Complex," Bill Poole said.

|OCT. 18, 2017 ARTS&LIVING



2017 Homecoming Court

Photo by Chris Reich

Celebration by decade: Homecoming 2017

Reporter

Mr. NSU Tre Nelson and Mrs. NSU Abby Hinds lead this year's Honor Homecoming Court, a group of students recognized for their achievement academic through student voting.

"I am excited I get to show all students [as Mr. NSU that] they can do whatever they put their minds to as long as they practice hard work and dedication," Nelson said.

Homecoming Honor Court Queen is Mallory McConanthy and King is Antavious Roberson. Other members include Rebekah Aultman, Noah Baudoin, Rowdy Burleson, Cylandria Clemons, Kennedy Cullen, Lydia Doucet, Ashley Fortenberry, Marquise

Foster, Olivia Guidry, Hunter Horton, Alyssa Jacobs, Kenedy Lampert, Dedrick Lewis, Kendrick Payne, Michael Phelps, Jasmine Roberts, Trey Roberts, Ryan Wright and Taylor Wright.

Northwestern State's Homecoming 2017 celebration features a retro theme, taking inspiration from the 1980s, '90s and

Organized by the Student Activities Board and NSU Alumni Association, homecoming weekend will kick off Oct. 20 with the annual golf tournament at the NSU Rec Complex followed by the evening

The parade, running a different route this year due to construction on Front Street, will begin on campus at Central Avenue.

The route will go west on University Parkway and then south on Tarlton Drive, concluding at Prather Coliseum. The pep rally will follow immediately at Collins Pavilion.

"The parade is my favorite event because it gives all groups an opportunity to showcase their talents while bringing together students and the Natchitoches community," Nelson said.

Alumni activities are also planned for Oct. 20. at different Meet-ups Natchitoches locations are categorized by graduation decade. Those graduated in the '60s and 70s meet at Mayeaux's, '80s at Maglieaux's, '90s at Mama's, '00s at the Landing and 2010-2017 at Pioneer

Saturday activities will

launch at 9 a.m. with the Homecoming Alumni Breakfast and Bingo at Collins Pavilion continue throughout the day with events such as the N Club Hall of Fame Induction, Morrison Open House for Scholars' College and the College of Business Reception.

Tailgating will begin at 2 p.m. and feature live music by 92twenty, a selfproclaimed "party band" that covers rock, country and top 40 hits. The tailgate area will also have a photo booth, vendors, games and

The football game against the University of Central Arkansas will kick off at 6

More information and a full schedule is available homecoming/



The Eyes of Argus

Perceptions

TOM TOWNSEND II Argus 2003

The World is not so big just now, Safe within my bed, Warm, secure, between my sheets, The day before me spread,

> I rise to breakfast, Start my day, It's off to class and then,

The Towers, Mass Destruction, The tales that classmates spread,

> TV on, My day is done, Spread upon my screen,

Smoke and windswept rubble, Such an awful scene,

Loss, the toll is heavy, Woes a world away, A dark that could not reach us, Had crossed our shores this day.

Submit your writing, fine art or photography to https://argusnsu.submittable.com/submit by Dec. 1 for a chance to be published in the 2018 edition of Argus.

'The Marriage of Figaro' set for Oct. 22-23

NSU Opera Theatre and the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Chamber Orchestra will perform selections from "Le Nozze di Figaro" (The Marriage of Figaro) Oct. 22-23 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dr. Marcy McKee directs the NSU Opera Theatre and Dr. Douglas Bakenhus will conduct the NSU Chamber Orchestra.

A profoundly humane comedy, Nozze di Figaro" is a remarkable marriage of Mozart's music at the height of his genius and one of the best librettos ever set. In adapting a play that caused a scandal with its revolutionary take on 18th-century society, librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte focused less on the original topical references and more on the timeless issues embedded in the frothy drawingroom comedy.

"It has been a fun and interesting semester learning this show and each other, since this is my first semester at NSU. I have found the students willing and eager to learn the show and their characters," McKee said. "We decided since this is rather early in the semester to perform such a large work that we would rather concentrate on the music and do the best singing possible. We have been collaborating with Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Chamber Orchestra. The students are excited to work with an orchestra."

Most of the characters will be double cast. The cast is Rayshaughn

Armant of New Orleans and Michael Martin of Pineville as Figaro, Amanda Charles of Shreveport and Nadya Cesario of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as Susanna, Braxton Hogan of Natchitoches and Aaron Rogers of Dayton, Texas, as the Count, Rachael Bryant of Alexandria and Michelle Moline of as the Countess.

The cast also includes Daniela Salas of Cartagena, Colombia as Cherubino, Noel Johnson of Bossier City and Ashleigh Pope of Nederland, Texas, as Marcelina, Mark Peyton of West Monroe as Bartolo, Morgan McCrory of Deville and Jiyoon Lee of Seoul, Barbarina, Korea, as Matthew Armand of Plaucheville as Basilio and Orlando Gonzales of Cartegena, Colombia, as Curzio.



Jiyoon Lee reherses with the NSU Opera Theatre.

BYE, BYE SAUCE PEOPLE

Creeping through the back woods of Natchitoches with my best friend clinging to my arm was not my first choice for a Saturday night.

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

I hate all things scary and try my best to avoid that cringe-worthy music that warns you something is about jump out at you.

For the past three Halloween seasons, Dark Woods has opened its gates along Highway LA 6 to scare thousands of patrons. Open every Friday and Saturday from Sept. 22-Oct. 31 as well as Halloween night, Dark Woods is one thing students should check off their list before graduating.

The attraction is currently held on five acres of land with the potential to expand an additional 12 acres. Next year, the owners plan to add four more buildings to the trail and build mausoleums into the graveyard.

Owner Marty Summerlin explained she and her husband Jesse were looking for something to occupy their time after retirement; the couple decided to open their own haunted house and found the woods of Natchitoches to be the perfect location. While Marty's start in the haunting business has been more recent, Jesse's previous career was as a home haunter, an amateur branch of the haunting business.

"This is the third year we have been open but the fourth year we have been here," Marty said. "We spent a whole year building. We looked for almost four years to find the property."

Dark Woods features two attractions: the Dead Fall Trail and Dark Carnival 3D

The Dead Fall Trail is a one-third mile walk through the woods scattered with four main shacks and a dozen characters ready to jump out from the darkness.

One of the first shacks we entered featured what appeared to be a fake body cavity opened on the table. I even checked under the table as I walked in to make sure no one was hiding. Still, the body jumped up and screamed bloody murder at me. I got out of there as fast as I could.

My group and I quickly found out the best way to trap The Current Sauce staff is with a maze of white bed sheets. We spent a good eight minutes walking back and forth trying to find the exit, which we clearly saw earlier in the daylight during our tour. A woman kept jumping out at us screaming, "Don't touch my sheets!" as we eventually made it out.

The Dark Carnival 3D requires people to sport 3D classes to experience the full effects of the cromadex paint while walking through a creepy carnival maze. This attraction was the one I was looking forward to the least.

The carnies screamed at us to hurry up the ramp to the entrance: "We aren't getting any younger!"

Waking into the building, I was instantly hit with the infamous circus music and giggles of clown actors. My best friend once again asked for my hand to squeeze as we tried to navigate from room to room.

Puffs of air and loud sounds were triggered by motion sensors as we went around each corner. At one point, we pushed past a curtain to reveal three more identical ones. We were once again trapped in a maze, but this one was a tad easier to escape.

Around one corner, we found an actor perched above us. I felt safe walking past her since she was not within reach of me – at least until she jumped down and caused the group behind us to run into a barrel.

Dark Woods was as scary as I expected it to be, and I am not sure I would go back for a second trip because I like to sleep at night. Even so, I appreciate the effort put into creating the attractions and the actors' work. Everyone stayed in character and made it a full experience.

For more information on hours and ticket pricing, visit darkwoodshaunt.com or call 318-289-9019.



6 SPORTS OCT. 18, 2017

Pink in October

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

E ach October, swarms of pink flood fields across various high school, college and professional sporting events honoring those who have fought or are fighting breast cancer and to increase awareness of the 3.1 million people who have been affected.

During Breast Cancer Awareness month, each fall sport at Northwestern State University hosts a Fork Cancer game. These games hold a special meaning to different athletes if they know someone who has been affected.

Two such athletes that have family members affected by breast cancer are football defensive end Dannie Harmon and soccer forward Jacqueline Manza.

"I have [had] three aunts that I'm very close to battle breast cancer," Harmon said. "Two survived their battles; we lost one two years ago."

In 2009, Manza also lost a loved one to breast cancer.

"My mom was diagnosed

around 2005, shortly after my brother was born. She fought it for some time," she said.

Losing a loved one is never

"It was really tough having to see [my] Aunt Angela go through that because you see her weaken every day. It hurt my heart to see her like that," Harmon said.

"When my mom passed away, I took it pretty hard," Manza said. "It didn't seem real at first."

The tough experiences Harmon and Manza have gone through has taught them lessons that they will carry for the rest of their lives.

"It taught me to not take things for granted. It's the little memories," Manza said. "Put effort and time into family, because that's what matters the most."

Harmon agreed with Manza.

"I learned that family will get you through the toughest times," he said.

Breast cancer affected Harmon and Manza not just in their personal lives, but on the field as well.



Defensive end Dannie Harmon speaks at an August press conference.

Photo by Chris Reich

"It gave me a different type of drive; I credit that to why my work ethic is so high," Harmon said. "It pushed me to a different level, [and] it made me understand that you have to give full effort through everything because you could lose everything at any point in time."

"It gave me a different kind of fight and purpose when I play," Manza said. "She may not be in the stands, but I feel like I have to do better because she's watching down on me."

Both Harmon and Manza have their own special ways to remember their loved ones. "Whenever I make a big play, I cross my heart and point up to the sky for my grandmother, my mother and my aunt," Harmon said. "I have them here in my heart... This is where I hold them at, and this is where I play for them... That's why I give my all, because I play with my heart."

While Harmon said he doesn't wear any article of clothing or accessory, Manza explained her own homage to her mother.

"On my cleats I have 'mom' sown on, [and] during the month of October, I have a pink sweat band that I wear

every game [with] the date my mom died," she said. "I also have a tattoo on my foot that says 'never stop dreaming, love mom' in her handwriting with a starfish next to it."

Harmon said he remembers seeing his aunt with a smile on her face even through the toughest of times – something he hopes those who are fighting try to do.

"Continue to battle and be strong; keep a smile on your face, and always believe in hope," he said. "You always have to have hope through these things, and if you have hope, anything is possible."

Homecoming 'brings everyone together'

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

Saturday night lights shine down upon two teams vying for their next win. But for the home team, this game is more meaningful than others.

Every year during Homecoming, thousands of Northwestern State students and alumni partake in daily events that conclude with them in the stands on Saturday night screaming and cheering the Demons to victory.

"It's honestly more [exciting] than any other game, mainly because all of the alumni come back," said Bobby Chan-Chan, senior wide receiver. "It's a great atmosphere and we look forward to it every year."

Each year, football alumni speak at NSU,

giving words of wisdom to the team throughout the week – some of which have stayed in the minds of each player.

"I really appreciate the old teammates from the '80s and '90s for coming back and talking with us and telling us their traditions and their memories here," senior offensive lineman Korliss Johnson said.

The words that resonate with senior wide receiver Cameron Lazare pertain to appreciating and savoring the moment.

"Enjoy the moment, because you can't go back and grab it. You have to make the most of it and leave it all out on the field so when you go home at night, you're satisfied with yourself," he said.

Junior offensive lineman

Chris Zirkle connected with a different piece of wisdom from his fellow teammates related to the team as a whole.

"The [alumni] say, 'you all look better now than when we were here. We can see a change [in the way they play]," he said.

Homecoming week is loaded with various student activities, most of which the NSU Demon football team cannot partake in due to preparation for the big game.

"Looking from the outside, we might want to do it, but we know we have a bigger task at hand," Lazare said.

Performing in LipSync, attending the bonfire and participating in other student activities may not be possible for the players, but there is one activity they can partake in: the parade.

"It's like a Mardi Gras parade," Lazare said. "We're throwing candy and beads to little kids on the street. We might get off [the float] – even though we're not supposed to get off – and give them some [candy] and shake hands."

While each player may have different favorite parts of the week, each looks forward to the "fan base and support," as Zirkle said.

"No matter what happens, it brings everyone together," Chan-Chan said. "Natchitoches is a college town, and everyone comes [to support]."

The homecoming game against University of Central Arkansas will kick off Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. in Turpin Stadium.

The Demon Walk tradition

REBEKAH AULTMAN REAGAN ESCUDE

Contributing Writers

After a loss last weekend, Demon Football coaches and athletes plan to use traditions to prepare for a homecoming victory. 2002 alumnus and Defensive Backs Coach De'Von Lockett said one of his favorites is the Demon Walk, a pre-game tradition where the team gets to socialize with former athletes.

"Sometimes I'm in the walk and next thing I know, it's thirty minutes after the walk and I'm still out there talking because you don't see those guys for years," he said.

Lockett has coached Demon Football for eight seasons and spent his college career as a wide receiver for the team. Although he remembers being in homecoming parades, he says student athletes are not involved as much as the general student body: "[Athletes] focus on the game."

OCT. 18, 2017 OPINION 7

Guns: An American phenomenon

KEATOR POLEMAN
Opinion Columnist

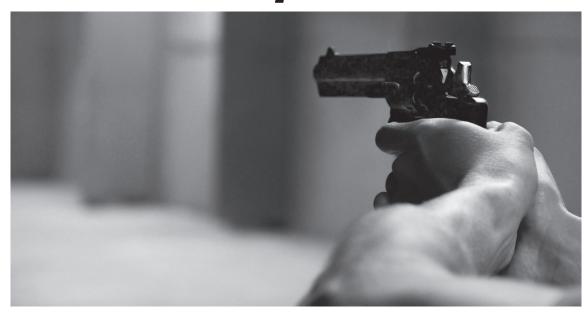
The rights and privileges outlined by our Constitution have been redefined and updated many times over the history of the United States. More often than not, these changes cause dissent among our fellow citizens. One of the most divisive of these is our right to bear arms

A recent Pew Research poll shows nearly 50 percent of Americans view gun violence as "a very big problem" nationwide.

Recent gun-related acts force us to ask ourselves one question: What can we do to curb this violence?

As someone who grew up around guns, I understand the importance of using them safely and acting as a responsible gun owner. However, I also understand that without proper precautions, preventable attacks will continue. We must have common sense gun regulation.

While there are some who view gun regulation as a threat to take away people's guns, there are



many obstacles in place to prevent a systemic seizure. It would take a two-thirds vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to pass an amendment for such an act to take place. However, it is highly unlikely that any politician would propose something that strict.

It is true that our constitutional rights are meant to limit the government; even so, we as citizens must also have our rights limited to a degree so our society may live in relative peace. While we have freedom of speech, for

example, we cannot say or wvdo whatever we want. It is only natural that our Second Amendment be limited in a way that pleases all sides in the debate.

USA Today reported
Stephen Paddock, the Las
Vegas shooter, bought 33
guns over the past year.
This incident shows even
those who own guns legally
can commit crimes. It is
essential that we have gun
regulations across the
nation.

By registering guns and limiting the type and number of guns one person is allowed to possess, there is the potential to prevent another widespread attack. It is obvious no law will fully prevent attacks, but it is important that we do whatever is constitutionally possible to limit them.

Law enforcement and government agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives should be held more accountable for their actions in not handling both illegal and potentially illegal gun ownership.

Gun violence has become too common to allow it to continue. We must do something to stop it.



#CURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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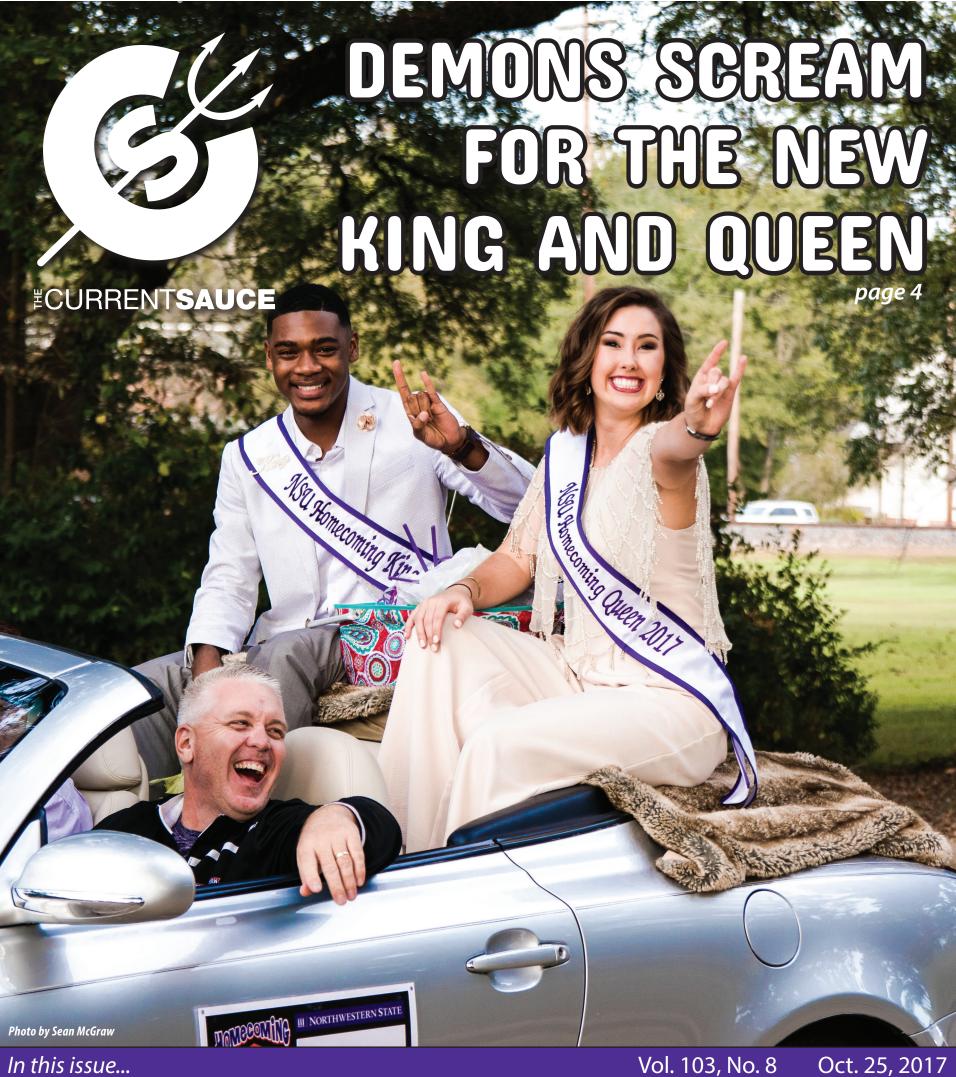
To submit tips, opinions, photos or illustrations, email thecurrentsauce@gmail.com or call (318) 357-5456



Photo by Sean McGraw

Nonprofit Wings Over Natchitoches hosted its Air Show at the Natchitoches Regional Airport Saturday. The organization aims to promote aviation and educate on its history.





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Two choirs to present concerts in Magale Recital Hall

OCT. 25, 2017

October 16

Hit and Run 1550 hours Parking Lot 25

October 18

Bike Theft 1425 hours Varnado Hall

Roommate Dispute 1574 hours University Place I

October 19

Trespassing 0848 hours University Place II Subject ordered to leave

Property Damage 2011 hours Parking Lot 11

October 20

Disturbance 1325 hours Parking Lot 16 Person removed

October 21

Driving While Intoxicated 0143 hours Caspari Street Arrest made

October 22

Hit and Run 1119 hours Parking Lot 8

1844 hours Watson Library Summons issued

Disturbance 2142 hours University Columns Warning given

Police Blotter NSU considers expansion

Associate Fditor

ccording to a September interview Awith Northwestern State President Dr. Chris Maggio, campus leadership has been proactive in response to increased enrollment numbers, setting up meetings to discuss future plans for the university.

"Any time you have growth, you have to make sure you have the infrastructure to continue to grow," he said. "Growth just for growth's sake is not the answer."

These meetings seek to address physical infrastructure on the Natchitoches campus and the potential need to expand certain areas such as housing and dining options.

"What do we need to do... [and] which way do we want to go [with options for housing]? What do our students want?" Maggio asked.

Jennifer Kelly, assistant to the Provost for Academic Support and Auxiliary Services, confirmed the university and Campus Living Villages have discussed adding on or expanding current dorms on

'New housing would not be available until Fall 2019 at the earliest," she said.

Due to the increased number of students and limited number of dorms, many students had to seek off-campus housing options recently. NSU housing has held an event the past two semesters to "bring the community to campus to show the current students what is available," as Kelly said.

Another topic of discussion has been NSU's contract with Sodexo. After the contract between the university and the dining services company came up for renewal last year, the university elected to renew the contract for another 10 years.

Sodexo currently offers services at Iberville Dining Hall, Vic's and Grill 155 in the Friedman Student Union and Café DeMon in Watson Library. NSU's Shreveport campus opened a Café DeMon July 1 in response to student and faculty requests for dining options on their satellite campus.

Kelly said that there is talk about expanding food offerings "on or adjacent to campus." She also said she has expressed to the Student Government Association that feedback from students is taken into consideration.

Maggio said the same.

"SGĂ is a great mechanism for students to have a voice," he said.

The governing body has worked on a year-long project in response to the parking situation on the Natchitoches campus; students have continually expressed their frustrations with parking on campus with lack of parking spots close to classes, sometimes resorting to 'creating' their own spots or parking in lots meant for faculty and staff.

"Parking is a question that we receive every semester," Kelly said. "I understand the students frustrations with the lack of parking close to buildings. However, typically there is available parking just a short walk away from most buildings.

SGA Secretary Antavious Roberson served as senator of student affairs during the 2016-2017 academic year when SGA introduced SB.FA.2016-03, the legislation which reorganized the campus parking system.

The new system placed into effect this year color coded parking permits, proposed new signage of lots and detailed that education about parking be improved.

While the new signage has not yet been placed, Roberson hopes the system will work toward easing parking issues.

"The new parking system should alleviate [parking problems], and we are better educating," he said. "[With] the influx of students... there is going to be a small problem."

President Tre Nelson said some issues students face with parking not only stem from a lack of education on where students can park but from on-campus residents driving to class when they could walk

"At the end of the day, if you're on campus... there's really not a whole lot of reasons you should be driving and filling up a lot of the spots," he said. "You're actually spending more time driving to class... than you would just walking."

Roberson agreed and reminded students parking is available near Prather Coliseum, even if walking distance seems like a

SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

President Tre Nelson reported he met with leadership and the Alumni Board of Directors Oct 20

"They had nothing but good things to say about SGA," he said. "I think that speaks to how well our group as a whole has been doing, and I want to thank everyone for their hard work."

Advisor Shayne Creppel said a document titled the Webb Resolution is a work in progress.

Sen. Jacob Ellis reported there is currently a shortage of Form B scantrons available in Watson Library. Students can still pick up scantrons in the SGA Office on the first floor of the Friedman Student Union.

SGA will host Leadership Luncheon Nov. 6 in the Student Union Ballroom 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The event is open to all students and meant to introduce NSU leadership to the student body.

Cops and Cane's will be held Nov. 9 at noon in the Stroud Room of the Athletic Fieldhouse; this is an SGAmember only event.

The Senate voted on and passed the revised SGA Budget. Treasurer Aly Jacobs said the total budget adds to \$122,217. The amount SGA is able to spend out of that budget is \$97,774; the rest of the amount is held in the reserve and miscellaneous accounts.

Athletic Budget Committee appointments were approved. Members appointed were Tre Nelson, Aly Jacobs, Taylor McBroom, Ryan Harman and Erin Gentry.

Sen. Ty Wright announced Mental Health Awareness Month is in March. SGA is planning a Mental Health Awareness Week and asked that senators contribute ideas for events

Phi Mu will host its Bayou Bash on Nov. 16 featuring Louisiana-themed food and live music, including a gumbo cook-off. Tickets are \$10 each.

Interfraternity Council President Thomas Celles said IFC has a Philanthropy Week planned for Nov. 6-12; all proceeds will benefit the Central Louisiana Homeless Coalition.

Dean asks students to be mindful in Halloween costume choices



FRANCES CONINE Interim VP of the Student Experience. Dean of Students

Dear Students: I hope everyone well and recovered from

midterms and homecoming week. Fall is a great time of year and with it comes one of my favorite holidays, Halloween.

Traditional among Halloween activities are costume parties. Regrettably each year, we hear of

college students who choose to dress in ways that are insensitive to others. Costumes or party themes that depict race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, social status, ability, or a specific element of a culture are inappropriate.

At all times and particularity at Halloween, I ask you to consider the values of Northwestern and the ideals of friendship and care which are the foundation of our University and the student groups on our campus. Loyalty, Leadership and Service are the principles that guide the Demon Creed. In order to be a Demon, we

are called to honor Northwestern, ourselves, and members of the NSU family.

Your leadership is a valuable strength. I encourage you to act on our Northwestern values. Be thoughtful as you plan events. Remember you determine who can and cannot attend your parties. Please act in ways that safeguard NSU, your groups and most especially, your Demons friends.

Contact me or any member of the Student Experience staff if you have concerns. Have a happy and safe

OCT. 25, 2017 OPINION 3

Student reviews new game release

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Opinion Columnist

Visual novels as a genre generally appeal to me. These games follow a text-based narrative with gameplay consisting of puzzle solving and exploration. A few of my favorites from the genre are the Phoenix Wright series, Danganronpa and Katawa Shoujo, but there is one very popular series I've been wanting to get into: the Professor Layton series.

Recently, Level 5 released the newest entry in the series following a new protagonist. I decided to pick it up as my first entry in the series. When I played it, I was hooked for the majority of my playtime and now want to see more of what the Layton games have to offer.

In Mystery Journey, you play as Professor Layton's daughter Katrielle. You, along with your assistant and talking dog, have to solve mysteries in London. You take on missions from your detective agency and explore the city to find clues, solve puzzles and interact with the city's many bizarre citizens.

The presentation is topnotch for this type of game.



The art style is adorable and transitions well from 2D animations to 3D models. The voice acting is also topnotch. Since the game takes place in Europe, characters are voiced by actors from the area, and you get authentic accents and voices that fit each one.

Game play in Layton is simple and set in two sections. Whenever you are investigating, you look around the environment and interact with certain objects and characters in order to find your next clue, extra items and hint coins to use on the many different puzzles you'll get into. These puzzles can range from simple riddles to complex

brain-scratching problems that test your cognitive skills. Each has a different mood and unique feel to it so play doesn't get repetitive.

Players may feel stumped at times, but the games let you buy hints with the previously mentioned hint coins and even let you quit out of the puzzle if you want to return later. Some of them really had me frustrated at myself, but the trick is to always think outside the box. It's satisfying to feel that "Aha!" moment once you find the solution on your first

Other than the main quest, there are extras to mess around with. You can customize the office and Katrielle's clothing, read up on completed or current cases, see an epilogue to a completed case or play one of the three minigames included.

The biggest criticism
I have for the game was,
unfortunately, the story.
Without giving away any
spoilers, it starts out great.
But then after a handful of
cases, the game just ends very
abruptly, leaving the plot
feeling lackluster. Most of it
has to do with the episodic
structure of the game
without a full overarching
narrative.

Either way, I still recommend Layton's Mystery Journey. However, the best platform out of the three options – 3DS, iOS and Android – to purchase it is on a mobile phone. I played the 3DS version, which includes some of the released DLC, but it also cost twice as much as the mobile version.

As a portable game, it's something you can play for a few minutes and get a burst of enjoyment. So while you are investigating the streets of London finding out who stole the Big Bend's hand, never forget that the truth is always stranger than fiction!



ECURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Reacting to All Stars 3 cast

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

Oh, honey. "All Stars 3"? Trixie Mattel has it in the honey pot, honey. You can't tell me otherwise.

World of Wonder Productions announced its cast of "RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars" season three Friday during a VH1 special.

Me: *pretends to be surprised even though I saw the rumored cast list on Reddit, and it was completely accurate*

Of course I saw the Reddit tea months ago. However, that didn't make the cast Ru-veal any less exciting.

It's one more thing to remind us: Soon, we will have a new portrait hanging in the digitally-rendered Drag Race Hall of Fame with Mama Ru, 2012 inductee Chad Michaels and 2016 inductee Alaska.

As much as I love BenDeLaCreme, Milk, Thorgy Thor and my Dallas homegirl Kennedy Davenport, none of them or other cast members can compare to life-size Barbie doll Trixie Mattel.

She is going to have her own TV show along with All Stars 2 runner-up Katya beginning Nov. 1. How many other drag queens can say, "I have my own TV show"?

Only RuPaul.

Being wildly successful outside of Drag Race is completely different from being able slay the competition, though.

I fully agree Trixie was lackluster on season seven, but I have no doubt she will come into the All Stars werkroom ready to murder every challenge she tackles and every runway she struts.

The most exciting thing about this season for me will be the Snatch Game. We'll finally get to see Trixie conquer this challenge and see if Kennedy can portray another character as iconic as her ballsy Little Richard.



Drag gueen Trixie Mattel

Photo by Squidoh

Homecoming Flashback

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

"Bring in the dancing lobsters" boomed over the speakers in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium as excitement jolted the crowd. Three male students ran onto the stage and busted a move, resulting in cheers and laughs from the audience.

The Kappa Sigma brothers' LipSync skit featured an obscure reference to "The Amanda Show" and earned them third place in the fraternity division. If for nothing else, it was for being memorable.

Activities for homecoming seem to be all fun and games, but planning spans several months.

Olivia Guidry, Student Activities Board committee head of homecoming, said planning begun in February. Her committee is responsible for budgeting, attending conferences, selecting a theme and deciding how to incorporate that theme into the week.

Guidry said planning LipSync is the "most stressful part" because so many organizations want to participate.

Homecoming at Northwestern State gives students a chance to break out their craziest socks, outfits and moves through a series of competitions between student organizations and other activities.

Last week's events included a 5K run, golf tournament, lip-sync battle, parade and pep rally.

Each student organization that participated during the week gathered outside Turpin Stadium

gates to see if their group won any of the week's competitions.

This year's overall winner was Phi Mu Fraternity. "It honestly feels good [to win]. The girls put in so much work until late at night," said Aly Jacobs, Phi Mu president. "They are deserving of that honor."

Phi Mu won People's Choice at LipSync with their car-ride skit about the last three decades, and Sigma Sigma Sigma placed first in the competition's sorority division.

"It's definitely a lot of work and long nights. But in the end, it is so worth it," said Jourdan Waddell, Tri Sigma's choreographer.

Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee won in each of their respective LipSync categories while President's Leadership Program took home the gold in the Homecoming Hunnies category.

Another part of homecoming that involves current students is the Homecoming Honor Court selection. Senior business administration major Dedrick Lewis is appreciative of fellow students who voted him onto the court.

"It's a great honor because the students pick those who best represent the university," he said. "Just to have that honor gives me the drive to be successful."

While competitions during the week hype up current students, homecoming is primarily about welcoming alumni back to campus.

"You can feel the excitement with all of the

alumni coming back," NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio said. "It's just like a family coming home, and each year it keeps getting bigger and bigger."

Maggio emphasized the "bond" many people feel with NSU, which is likely what motivates alumni to return on special occasions.

"Everyone has a connection with the university," he said. "When you go around to talk to some of them, it might be a fraternity or sorority. It might be an academic area or a club they were in. There's a bond, and they come back each year for many years."

Alumna Kelli Walker's connection and reason for returning was to celebrate the Scholars' College's 30th anniversary.

"It's exciting to be back at Northwestern," she said. "It's great to see old friends and professors."

Saturday's football game was paused twice due to lightning nearby, but fans didn't lose heart.

"The football team is holding tough," Walker said during the delay. "They are playing a really good football team and the weather is not the best, but they are really giving it their all. It's great to see."

No matter how much Demon pride filled the stadium, the football team could not defeat Central Arkansas, falling 45-17.

"We had great emotion early and were ready to play, but it turned on us," Coach Jay Thomas said. "We had some penalties that hurt us in field position, and we couldn't get it flipped in a critical third quarter."



6 SPORTS OCT. 25, 2017

Volleyball wins bring confidence

KYLIE DESCANT
Contributing Writer

Lady Demon Volleyball faces a three-game home series Oct. 26, 28 and 31 against Sam Houston State, Abilene Christian and Central Arkansas, respectively. With an overall record of 12 wins and 13 losses, the Lady Demons seek to improve their conference record of seven wins and three losses leading into the end of conference play and postseason.

A four-game winning streak in early October has boosted morale for the team's upcoming games. Though that streak ended with a loss in five sets against Houston Baptist Oct. 17, the Lady Demons bounced back with two wins during homecoming week against University of New Orleans and Southeastern Louisiana University.

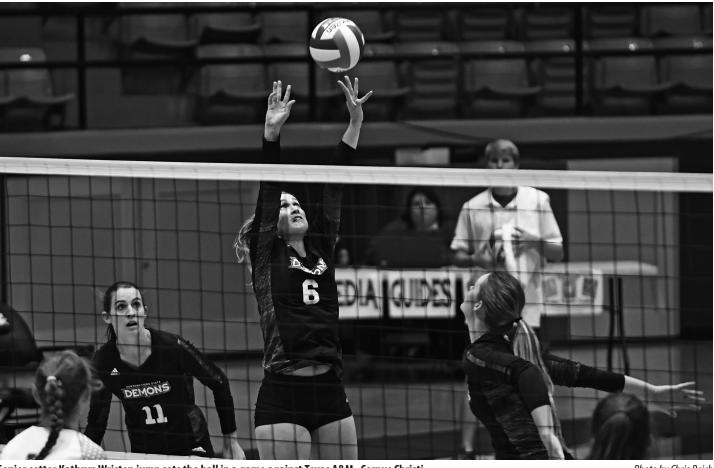
Head Coach Sean Kiracofe put it simply: "Winning is fun."

Kiracofe said he is confident in his team and the season they have had despite their losses.

"I don't think that a loss is going to have as big of an impact at the end of the season as it maybe would have at the beginning," he said.

"Like I said going into this match, we want to spread out our offense and try to add some new things going into the end of the year," Kiracofe said in an interview with NSU Athletics following the win against SLU.

Junior setter Kathryn Wristen said the Lady Demons have to continue to stay concentrated and cannot relax after their recent win streak.



Senior setter Kathryn Wristen jump sets the ball in a game against Texas A&M—Corpus Christi.

Photo by Chris Reich

"The girls have to stay focused and never forget what winning feels like, because every match is an important match," she said.

In addition to their mental toughness, Wristen said they must continue to stay focused on their physical health.

"With it being so late in the season, the girls' bodies are breaking down,"

she said. "So we have to work on staying strong and healthy for the rest of the season."

With six matches left before the Southland Conference Tournament, the Lady Demons will have to continue fighting the rest of the season to improve not only their season records, but their chances of entering the tournament. Currently ranked fifth in the conference, the Lady Demons must remain in the top eight to play in the tournament.

The first home game Oct. 26

The first home game Oct. 26 against Sam Houston State will start at 6:30 p.m. in Prather Coliseum. A full schedule of the Lady Demon Volleyball season is available at nsudemons.com

Softball schedule includes most home games in a decade

MATT VINES

NSU Assistant Director of Communication

NATCHITOCHES

Northwestern State softball coach Donald Pickett said he appreciates local fans and the support they give each season.

Pickett had locals in mind as he formed the 2018 schedule, which features 25 home games, the most since 2008

Spearheading the homegame surge is the return of the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission Lady Demon Classic, which features four teams and six games featuring NSU.

The home tournament was last played in 2014.

"We've been trying to get this thing off the ground," Pickett said. "We've had a couple years of three teams who'd want to come, but we were finally able to get a fourth team this year.

"All the home games this year weren't because we're a younger team. We just traveled so much last year, and our fans do a lot for us in town and want to see our girls play. I wanted to try to play as many games at home as I could."

The NHDDC Tournament from Feb. 16-18 features Jackson State, Memphis and Stephen F. Austin, the latter of whom plays NSU three times in non-conference action this season.

It's the only tournament in which NSU will play after high-profile tournaments at places like Florida and Oklahoma in 2017.

That doesn't mean topnotch competition isn't on the slate.

NSU kicks off the season at WCWS member Baylor for a three-game series starting Feb. 9, heads to Texas Tech for a three-game series on Feb. 23 and travels to WCWS member LSU on April 17.

"It's different for sure playing Power Five teams in series instead of one game as part of a tournament," Pickett said. "It's like conference play now, and in some ways it's more simple from a preparation standpoint.

"You're thinking about one team, and a lot of adjustments have to be made during those series. I'm hoping that will prepare us for conference series."

NSU will also line up eight

times against Southwestern Athletic Conference teams.

The Lady Demons play at Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Feb. 13) in a doubleheader, host the Lions on March 2 in a three-game series, travel to Prairie View A&M (Feb. 28) for a doubleheader and host Jackson State three times as part of the NHDC Tournament.

NSU also travels to UT Arlington (Feb. 21) and plays a home-and-home against Louisiana Tech, heading to Ruston on March 21 and hosting the Techsters on April 25.

The Lady Demons start Southland Conference play with a pair of top-four teams, hosting Lamar (March 9-10) before heading to Abilene Christian (March 16-17). NSU gets the next two conference series at home with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (March 23-24) and conference champion McNeese (March 30-31).

The Lady Demons start April with a conference series at Incarnate Word (April 6-7) before returning to host Southeastern (April 13-14).

A trip to Nicholls (April 20-21) back ends that LSU visit (April 17) before the Lady Demons come back to Natchitoches to host Louisiana Tech (April 25) and a series against Houston Baptist (April 27-28).

NSU ends the regular season with a series at Central Arkansas (May 4-5).

The Southland Conference Tournament will be played at McNeese from May 9-11. |OCT. 25, 2017 ARTS&LIVING



What is this stuff?

STEVE DUGGER Argus 2001

Binding, tying, pulling in tight. Holding, securing, with all of its might. Binding, adhesive, permanent glue. Cement, epoxy, part one and part two. Welding completely, affixing, retaining. Gripping, hugging, firmly containing. Gum like attachment, connecting like paste. Plenty for all, yet nothing to waste. What is this mysterious, this magical mastic? This sticky-type substance with strength so fantastic. Grasping, long holding, and fits like a glove. The compound is simple; this stuff is called love.

Submit your writing, fine art or photography to https://argusnsu.submittable.com/submit by Dec. 1 for a chance to be published in the 2018 edition of Argus.

New Orleans hosts Voodoo

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

or many people, Halloween weekend is a time for dressing up, eating candy and watching scary movies. For the city of New Orleans, however, it is more than that with an added musical twist.

The 19th annual Voodoo Music + Arts Experience will take place Oct. 27-29 in downtown New Orleans. The festival brings in over one million people to City Park annually and is the second largest music event in New Orleans next to the Jazz and Heritage Festival.

This year's headliners are Kendrick Lamar, Foo Fighters and The Killers. Additional acts include Cold War Kids, LCD Soundsystem, The Head and The Heart and Post Malone.

Sophomore nursing major Emily LaRosee is looking forward to attending Voodoo for the first time. She said she set aside a portion of each paycheck during her summer job to pay for her ticket.



Audience members enjoy last year's Voodoo Fest. Photo by Charles Reagan Hackleman

"I wanted to attend because it is something I've never done before," she said. "When I found out Post Malone was going to be there, I knew I had

The three day festival, which the official website refers to as "a musical gumbo," features over 65 performers and offers food, interactive artwork and various vendors and activities. Many festivalgoers choose to attend in costume since the festival is during Halloween weekend.

New Orleans Online recommends using public transportation and taking advantage of discounted rates offered at local hotels.

The official festival website offers a glimpse into all artists, vendors and accommodations offered during the weekend, as well as a map of the festival grounds. Tickets are available for the entire weekend or by day at the general admission, VIP or platinum level. More information is available at voodoofestival.com

Chamber and Concert Choirs to perform this week

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA Managing Editor

Students and community members have several upcoming opportunities this week to attend concerts by students in the School of Creative and Performing Arts. While the NSU Chamber Orchestra, Opera Theatre and Horn Choir performances have already passed, audiences are welcome to catch vocal performances on Oct. 25 and 26.

Chamber and Concert choirs will perform in Magale Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. for their respective performances. Audiences will be treated to unique musical selections at each concert.

Similar to other branches of the department, choirs have been working since August to perfect the music audiences will hear. When asked what audiences can expect at each performance, choir members gave as little detail as possible, speaking of the selections broadly.



Basses rehearse with the Concert Choir.

A soprano in Concert Choir, Daniela Salas described the musical selections as involving

popular pieces audiences would recognize and some in foreign languages.

Audiences of the Chamber Choir concert can also expect "a very interesting repertoire,"

tenor Carlomagno León said.

"I can assure you that it is going to be a diverse concert, both language and musicwise," he said.

Choir members have shifted focus in rehearsal as the concerts approached. They are now placing emphasis on

how each individual part of a performance relates to the larger musical concept of the

León is preparing for his first large performance with choir. He explained practices have continued to increase in intensity the closer

songs featured.

the performance gets.

"The entire choir has had to focus more on listening [to] each section, matching sounds and, of course, watching the conductor," León said.

Salas described how nerveracking practices have been but said she and other choir members are ready for the performance.

"We work twice as hard to make everything perfect," she said. "I'm excited to show the audience how hard [we] have been working for this concert and all the things we have achieved."

"I just want the audience to enjoy each one of the performances that [CAPA] choirs have been putting together since the beginning of the semester..." León said.

Audiences are also invited to attend the NSU Men's and Women's Choral Concert Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Hall.

Admission for these concerts is free. More information about **CAPA** events is available at capa. nsula.edu



Photo by Sean McGraw

Cast members of the Student Theatre Organization's production of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" rehearse in the choir room for their Oct. 25 show. Stars include freshmen Trevor Brown and Milla Gonzalez playing Brad and Janet, respectively.



"Say! Any of you guys know how to Madison?" Asshole.

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

"Rocky Horror Picture Show" is coming. So be prepared for the clickclack of high heels, and study up on the heckling essential to creating the full Rocky Horror experience.

The NSU Student Theatre Organization is presenting its ninth annual Rocky Horror production Oct. 25 at 8:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

Actors will sing most songs live, and the film will be played in between numbers to complete the show.

This year's performance is directed and choreographed by junior theatre major Jhalon Thomas, who was selected after competing with other students for the job.

During his childhood, Thomas seeing Frank-N-Furter costumes and thinking it was just a stock outfit sold in stores; later, he was formally introduced to the Rocky Horror world when he heard about cast auditions during his first semester at NSU and later joined the production as a dancer and Transylvanian.

Thomas' experience with the show helped him cope with body dysmorphic disorder.

"I never took off my shirt in front of someone, let alone frolicked around stage naked in just duct tape and a pink Speedo," he said. "[Rocky Horror] made me love myself and made me grow so much as a person. And I can honestly say that my time at Northwestern would not have been the same if I didn't go through the 'Rocky Horror Picture Show'

Similar to Thomas, freshmen theatre majors Trevor Brown and Milla Gonzalez will make their NSU debut in Rocky Horror playing leads Brad and Janet.

Brown lost his Rocky Horror virginity in a corset and fishnet Halloween stockings on sophomore year of high school.

"My parents are going to disown me for this," he joked about the evening. "I enjoyed it so much that I decided to audition for the show here."

He sums up his connection to Brad with one word: awkward. But he hopes his experience in the show will lead him to fully accept himself and his body - something he feels is already working.

Gonzalez relates to Janet's curious nature and how she "thinks she knows what she wants in life" while always wondering, "what if?"

"I feel like I'm at that stage... I think that I have my whole life set out for me," she said.

Gonzalez first saw the film with her friends and said it was "unlike

anything [she] had ever seen" at the time.

"It's such a massive show," she said. "It's kind of hard to take in all at once, but then once you understand how it works, it's just - I really love it."

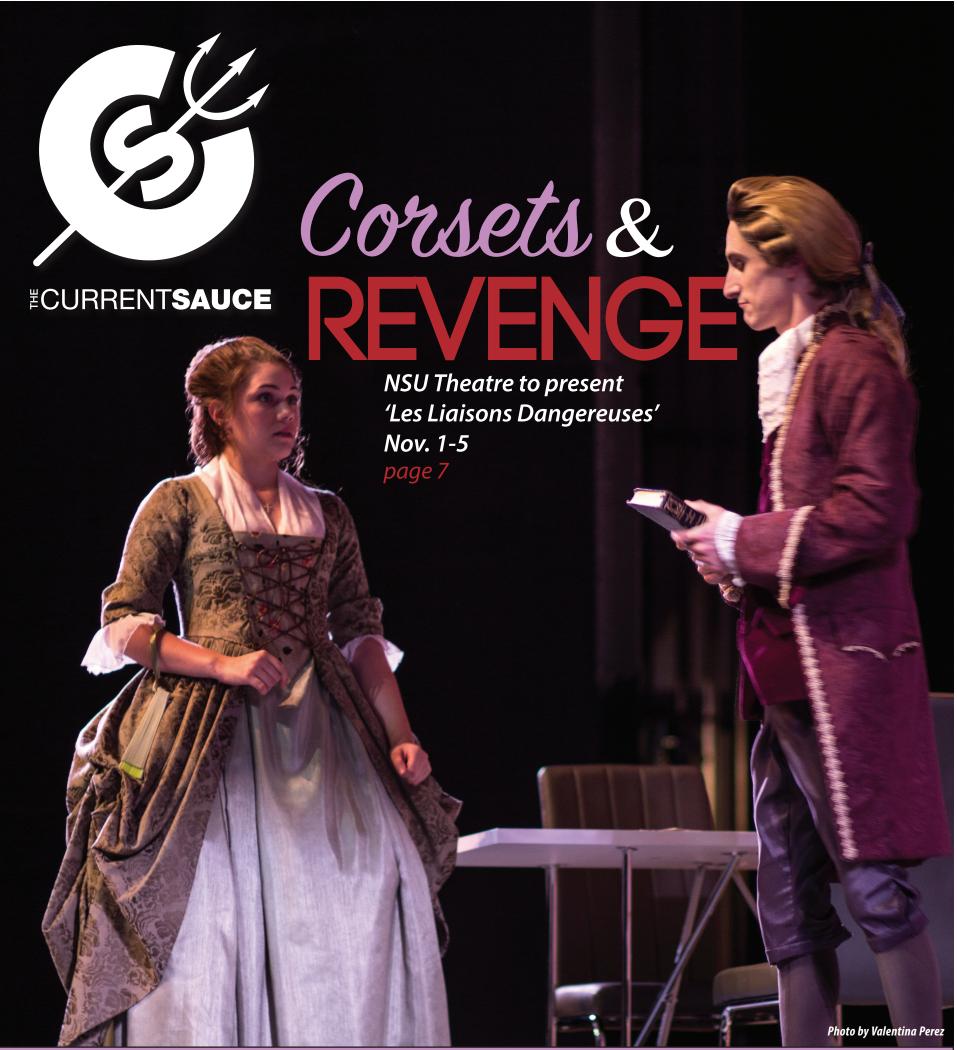
Talking about other cast members, Brown, Gonzalez and Thomas were enthusiastic about the experience.

"We're all experiencing this together, and I think that's what keeps us all close," Gonzalez said.

"We were close at the beginning, but now we do lots of stuff together outside of rehearsals," Brown said. "While we are in rehearsals, we are having so much fun together."

"They are all so eager, and it's just so fun," Thomas said. "The bottom line goal is to have fun, love yourself and be the sexiest version of you."

The production serves as a fundraiser for the Student Theatre Organization. Student cost \$3, or \$5 with a prop bag. General admission is \$5, or \$7 with a prop bag. Visit facebook. com/studenttheatrensu for more information.



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WRAC renamed after Webb

DAVID WEST

NSIJ Director of Communications

Northwestern State University has received approval from the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to name its Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center in honor of the late Dr. Randall J. Webb. The request was approved by the Board of Supervisors at its October meeting.

Webb, who passed away in Nov. 2015 at 72, was the longest-serving president in the history of Northwestern State, holding the position from July 1, 1996 to Dec. 31, 2014.

"Naming the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center in honor of Dr. Webb underscores and perpetuates meaningful contributions to Northwestern State during his long tenure as president and in other roles at the university," NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio said. "The WRAC has been an enormous asset for the university in attracting and retaining students and has served both the university and the community in promoting and facilitating a healthy lifestyle for students, university personnel and people in the Natchitoches community."



Photo by NSU Photographic Services

Late president Dr. Randall J. Webb

Police Blotter

October 23

Property Damage 0756 hours Caspari Hall

Theft

1110 hours **University Columns**

Battery

1200 hours South Jefferson Street

1911 hours WRAC

Fight

1939 hours **University Columns**

October 24

Video Voveurism 0040 hours Varnado Hall Arrest made

Disturbance

1600 hours Kyser Hall

Warning given

Disturbance 1804 hours Student Union Subjects gone on arrival

Disturbance 2054 hours University Columns Verbal warning given

October 26

Property Damage 1023 hours Parking Lot 25

October 27

Disturbance 0029 hours University Columns Subjects left the premises



Photo by Jasmine Johnson

The Women's Resource Center received more than 14,000 canned food items from the Resident Life drive.

Food drive benefits Women's Resource Center

ZOE ALMARAZ

Reporter

With a new record of 14,182 cans, the Northwestern State University housing department hosted a successful canned food drive for Homecoming Week this year.

Every year, Resident Life completes impact challenges designed to help out the community and give back to important causes. Led by Resident Director Christian Broussard, University Columns organizes a canned food drive, one of these challenges, during Homecoming Week.

"An impact challenge is a program that benefits our NSU campus and Natchitoches community," Beau Russell, a member of the Resident Life staff, said. "Impact challenges are our way of giving back, and they have grown larger and larger every year."

Russell and his co-workers, aided by Phi Beta Sigma and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities, collected and delivered approximately 4,500 cans to the Women's Resource Center and 9,500 cans to the Cane River Children's Services.

The Women's Resource Center helps women with medical advice and resources regarding health and pregnancy. They also have a food pantry which is used to help women and children in need.

The Cane River Children's Services is an organization designed to provide a support network to children and families that need one. The cans were spread out among the Cane River Food Pantry and to a girls and boys transition home. Cane River Food Pantry feeds more than 200 families in Natchitoches.

While this food drive is the usual event, Women's Resource Center does accept donations from other NSU drives.

"NSU student organizations have donated baby supplies, blankets and other common items, as well as toys during the Christmas season," Beverly Broadway, a staff member of the WRC, said.

Other events hosted by Resident Life include the "Demons Turn Teal Week" for ovarian cancer awareness and the annual Halloween Carnival to benefit labs on campus. These events are the impact challenges for University Place I and II, respectively.

The Women's Resource Center can be found on Facebook or contacted at 318-357-8888. The Cane River Children's Service can be found on Facebook or contacted at 318-352-9349.

SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH

Associate Fditor

- President Tre Nelson was absent from the meeting but thanked SGA members for attending the SGA Halloween Movie night Oct. 24.
- Sen. Jacob Ellis met with SGA Advisor Shayne Creppel last week regarding Leadership NSU. More information will follow.
- SGA will host Leadership Luncheon Nov. 6 in the Student Union Ballroom from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The event is open to all students and meant to introduce NSU leadership to the student body.
- Sen. Ragan Aple reported she updated the SGA OrgSync page with photos of senators.
- Cops and Cane's will be held Nov. 9 at noon in the Stroud Room of the Athletic Fieldhouse; this is an SGA-member-only
- Phi Mu will host its Bayou Bash on Nov. 16 featuring Louisiana-themed food and live music, including a gumbo cook-off. Tickets are \$10 each.
- Kappa Sigma is holding a raffle for fallen police officers in the Lafayette and New Orleans areas. Tickets are \$2 each.
- Tau Kappa Epsilon will collaborate with Raising Cane's to raise money for St. Jude's.

Thank A **Donor Day**

Stop by the Alumni Plaza Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. to handwrite a letter for NSU's scholarship supporters. Students who participate will be treated to live music and free food, sponsored by Demons Unlimited Foundation and NSU Foundation.

NOV.1, 2017 NEWS 3

Academic resources help with finals prep, registration

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

As registration for spring semester classes and fall semester finals near, services on the NSU Natchitoches campus gear up to provide aid to students during a crucial period of the academic year.

Academic Advising

Academic advising is an integral part of the University Studies 1000 course that students are required to take as freshmen. In response to NSU's increased enrollment, the course sections offered increased to 45 sections on the Natchitoches campus and 11 sections for satellite and internet students.

"We have more sessions of University Studies 1000 in the fall semester than we ever have," said Steve Hicks, executive director of Academic Advising Services and steward of UNIV 1000 curriculum.

Hicks also said students must show proof of registration and advising as one of their final assignments for the UNIV 1000 course.

"After Thanksgiving break, [students] have finals on their brain... If we have that many students wait until January [to register for classes], it makes the administration weary," he said.

Certain sections may be more tailored toward certain areas such as career exploration; the department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies, for example, opted to create their own University Studies section specific to English majors.

"The increase [in enrollment] has helped us...



Sarah Desselle studies biology in the Academic Success Center in the first floor of Watson Library.

Photo by Jordan Reich

understand that we're a community," Dr. Jim Mischler said regarding the English-specific section. "It's easier just to connect with people when they're around."

Other departments such as the Louisiana Scholars' College also have their own version of the UNIV 1000 course.

While most students meet with faculty advisors in their respective departments, some students meet with faculty in Academic Advising Services.

"We work with virtually any student who will come through... But our forte is really sort of threefold," Hicks said.

He explained Academic Advising Services focuses on "exploratory" students who have not declared a major, students interested in the bachelor of general studies and pre-clinical nursing students on the Natchitoches campus.

Spring registration begins Nov. 6 through my.nsula.edu. The full registration schedule can be found online at nsula. edu

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center is another tool available to students seeking help; it caters to students who want tutoring and extra help with their classes, both in person and online via WebEx. The center, which was created during the summer of 2015 and moved to Watson Memorial Library in spring 2016, has 13 tutors and five graduate assistants available by appointment.

"We went from trying to emphasize all of the classes to emphasizing those freshman and sophomore foundation classes so students can be successful in those junior and senior classes [later]," said Ashley Briggs director of the Academic Success Center. "We [also offer] writing editing, and we do that at both the graduate and undergraduate level... simply because we don't have a writing center."

Briggs explained that she enjoys working with and helping undergraduate students as much as possible – one reason she loves her job so much.

"When people ask, 'What is the academic success center?' I say 'tutoring,'" she said. "It's like an iceberg – [tutoring] is the tip, and I'm not going to explain what's under the water because it [can get] very confusing."

The center additionally hosts Student Success Workshops throughout the academic year; the next scheduled workshop, "What Can I Do With This Major? Focus: Psychology," will be held Nov. 1 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Watson Library Instruction Lab.



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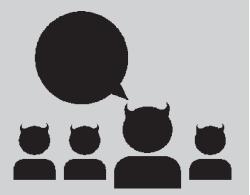




Photo by Alec Horton

Originally built in 1939 as a dormitory, Caspari Hall is named after Leopold Caspari, a late 19th and early 20th century state legislator who advocated for the state to select Natchitoches as the site for the Louisiana State Normal School. The building closed for years and reopened in 2013 after substantial renovation, now housing the president's and provost's offices and the Graduate School, among other things.



Photo by Tom Boyd

 $\label{lem:cond} \textbf{American Cemetery on Second Street is the site where Caspari is buried.}$



Photo by Billy Hathorn

Caspari Street on NSU's Natchitoches campus is named after Caspari, who is often credited as the university's founder.

What about

Leopold Caspari?



Photo provided by Cammie G. Henry Research Center Leopold Caspari, "Father of Normal," was a Democratic representative in the Louisiana Legislature from 1884-1892 and later a senator from 1900-1908, both for Natchitoches Parish. He died in 1915 and is buried at the historic American Cemetery on Second Street.

KEATOR POLEMAN

Contributing Writer

Debates of renaming landmarks, removing Confederate monuments and even banning the Confederate flag have long been a part of the U.S. political climate. However, these debates seemed to climax when protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, turned violent and drew international attention in August.

There have been no violent protests at NSU – well, not that we could find. But these incidents beg the question: What about Leopold Caspari?

NSU's origin

Named "Father of the Normal," Caspari was a captain in the Confederate army and a Louisiana legislator. Both the administration building where the president's office is located and a campus road bear his name.

The Louisiana State Normal School, now known as NSU, was established in 1884 "for the benefit of such white persons of either sex..." as a two-year institution for prospective teachers.

Speaking on the legacy of racism in our community, NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio shared a hopeful message of the future of the university's diversity. He called on students, faculty and community members alike to engage in open dialogue about these issues and said NSU can be "a shining example for other universities." He believes there are aspects that can be improved through conversation.

"[NSU] can be a leader in diversity," he said.

Over the years

The university's stance on the idea of integration in the 1950s and '60s was displayed in several events. In the spring semester of 1954, four black students

were denied admission to NSU. It wasn't until 1965 that the university lost an integration lawsuit and allowed its first handful of black students to attend.

Staff of The Current Sauce, at the time, were among those who resented integration. A week after NSU became lawfully integrated, an editorial ran with the headline "Students Congratulated On Conduct During Recent Integration Crisis." This article mentioned the overwhelming opposition from students but claimed they amicably accepted the decision.

The Current Sauce conducted a survey in 1971, six years after black students were admitted, where 100 NSU students shared their opinions on campus integration. Unsurprisingly, white students supported integration at a lower rate than black students, who were all in favor.

The survey found black students were greatly offended by the Confederate battle flag often displayed by white students.

During the same survey, students were asked to rate the administration on its attitude toward black students. 68 percent of white students believed the administration had an average or very good attitude. However, 55 percent of black students rated the administration as either poor or bigoted.

In recent history

In fall 2015, four student athletes posed for an Instagram photo, and one of the men was in blackface. The team members released an apology after the photo went viral, and students held a rally in response to the incident to promote peace.

Additionally, in a fall 2015 issue of The Current Sauce a student said "If the South would have won, we would have made it." His comment was in reference to a decision made by Mayor Lee Posey to ban the Confederate flag from the annual Christmas parade.

Posey's decision was met with protests by the Sons of Confederate Veterans' Natchitoches

chapter. The group waved their flags along the parade's sidelines and later sued the city.

Dakota Scoggins, who is a descendent of a Confederate soldier and local business owner, said this of the flag supporters: "We are not racist; the flag has nothing to do with what it's being twisted into now."

Today

Fellow students shared their own opinions on the university's and city's history with racism.

Sophomore Kennedy Butler said it is part of our heritage and believes trying to cover up what happened in the past is wrong. He went on to say he had been called the N-word by a group of white students.

"'At the end of the day, you're still you," Butler recalls his mother saying in reference to the incident

Jacob Bennett, a junior, believes racism is not a major problem on campus, but the school should make diversity a priority. He thinks other white students should address racism as well.

Freshman Shari Wilson thinks it is wrong to honor those who fought on the side of the Confederacy. Wilson said it is divisive to name public places after members of the Confederacy, not a part of Southern heritage.

Contributions by Meg Denny

6 SPORTS

'The future is bright' for Lady Demons

SAMANTHA MAIETTE Renorter

ension runs high as the scoreboard counts down. Legs become weak as the last miles of the season tread up and down the field. After 74 minutes of tough competition, the deadlock is suddenly broken as the gamewinning goal slides into the back of

After overcoming injuries, hard loses and a disappointing season compared to last year's fourth place Southland Conference finish, the Lady Demon Soccer team secured a single goal to give them a win over Central Arkansas in the season's final game.

The Lady Demons finished with six wins and 12 losses overall, and two wins and nine losses in Southland Conference play.

"The season was very interesting; it didn't go as we thought it would go," senior Cache' Haley said. "We came in thinking we were going to dominate, especially because of where we stood last year."

Freshman midfielder Alexis Weaver agreed with Haley.

us," she said. "We didn't win some games that we should have."

Even though it has been a rough few months for the Lady Demons, Head Coach George Van Linder is now looking to the future of the

"The future is bright, and I think that's what the seniors wanted more than anything: to establish our culture and bring players into our top quality. And we certainly have that," Van Linder said. "The seniors may not be going out on the positive note that they wanted to, but they helped create a legacy for years to

Haley said the attacking portion during offensive play is something they struggled with.

"Attacking wise, we had so many shots in the attacking third," she said. "But we [also] have the most goals scored on us.'

For Weaver and Van Linder, it was conference play which was the turning point.

"Conference took us by surprise because we trained so hard, it got super serious and real," the freshman said.

"The first three or four games of "The season has been rough for the conference season, we came out



Photo by Chris Reich

FILE - Senior forward and midfielder Cache' Haley blocks a Texas A&M-Corpus Christi player from the ball.

on the short end of close games," Van Linder said. "Then we realized that we're a little behind the eight ball, and there was some shock."

Team members said there were moments through hardships which made the season worth the struggles and allowed for team bonding to

"We went on a [trip] without cell phones for two or three days," Haley said. "It was a good bonding session

Van Linder reflected on the season as a whole.

"[My favorite part was] being with the team," he said. "They're a great group of girls [who] represent the athletic department and university

Though the Lady Demons ended their season on a happy note with the 1-0 win against Central Arkansas, they face a potential challenge for next season with the loss of 10 graduating seniors.

Volleyball expects well-rounded athletes, recruits to continue success

HANNAH MORRIS CINNAMON PLAYER Contributing Writers

Athletic prowess is not the only priority for Northwestern State University athletes. athletic department The holds their athletes to high standards with three core values: academic achievement, personal responsibility and competitive success.

The NSU volleyball team is successful on the court and in the classroom, Greg Burke, director of athletics, and Sean Kiracofe, head volleyball coach said.

To meet the second value, student-athletes participate in Victorious for Life, a leadership development and community service program that facilitates student-athlete involvement in the community and on campus. Victorious for Life aims to prepare



FILE - Volleyball players celebrate after a successful play.

Photo by Chris Reich

student athletes to have a solid personal foundation, along with their academic progress and athletic ability.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is a member-led organization dedicated to the well-being and success of college athletes. By participating in Victorious

Life, student-athletes are held not only to NCAA standards, but also to specific NSU standards.

"Regardless of what we do as an administration, or what they do as coaches, we've got NCAA guidelines that athletes must comply with," Burke

Along with these guidelines are progress towards degree and academic progress rate, which track student-athletes' journey to graduation.

"They have to be enrolled in 12 hours minimum every semester. If they drop below 12 hours, they are automatically ineligible," Jasmine Chievous, assistant athletic director for student-athlete development, said. Student-athletes must maintain a minimum 1.8 GPA to remain eligible to play their sport and keep their scholarships.

The academic department of athletics uses GradesFirst, a software program, to monitor student-athletes' grades, performance and attendance.

The volleyball team has been awarded the "Team Academic Award" for the past two years, according to Kiracofe. They are looking to recruit students who will add to this success.

"You're constantly trying to be prepared for the next class coming in," Kiracofe said. "Each position is a little bit different, but you're looking for physical ability and [that] they can fill a role with what you're looking for. How their family is, what they're like in the classroom [is also important]."

Prospective must meet certain academic thresholds set by their high school and by the NCAA, and must meet the same criteria as other collegiate student-athletes.

According to Burke, "when it comes to the classroom, [all athletes] are on the same playing field as everyone else." Burke, Kiracofe and other athletic department members aim to create great players and also make successful individuals after college.

NOV. 1, 2017 ARTS&LIVING 7



To Stand Alone

AMANDA SABALA

Argus 2012

Where do you fall Othello? At the Gulf War? Perhaps at the Holocaust on your knees with Mein Führer? What of Cassio then? Hear my lesson, trippingly on my tongue: Learn. Go out and learn why a Cassio is Cassio and why you listened to worsted war words Iago squawked. For if you don't, new Othello, more than just Desdemona will fall to frightened fists. Poor reasons are not for war-tides. Trip no more in Bosnia or over Russian Unions. My advice, true Othello, to preventno. Demand only what you can hold.

Submit your writing, fine art or photography to https://argusnsu.submittable.com/submit by Dec. 1 for a chance to be published in the 2018 edition of Argus.

I speak no more.

An eager cast awaits

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

A.A. Fredericks Auditorium will soon be filled with corsets and revenge as the cast of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" takes the stage.

"Take about ten seconds to think about what you want to accomplish in this rehearsal," Director Scott Burrell said to the cast at the beginning of a run-through.

Actors answered Burrell with goals such as bigger stage presence and remembering lines. While the cast were all still perfecting their lines, they were quick and eager to fix mistakes when they were made

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses" depicts 1700s upper-class French society members with too much time on their hands and bones to pick. Valmont and Merteuil, the two leads, hatch a plan to start a scandal and damage the reputations of those around them.

Junior theater major Rosa Campbell plays widow Marquise Isabelle de Merteuil.

"I really love getting to play someone who is not me for just a little while," she



Photo by Valentina Perez

Bethany Lee rehearses for "Les Liaisons Dangereuses."

said. "This show is [also] so different from any other show I have ever done because of the time period."

Senior and fellow theatre major Jesse Kortus, cast as Vicomte Sébastien de Valmont, said he loves the stage because it doesn't feel like work. Kortus researched images from 1700s France to be sure that he fit the time period and that the essence of the period shined through his performance.

The show has many undertones, Campbell and Kortus agreed, and each scene is different. Campbell described the show as well-written.

"There are so many different layers to dive into, and I don't think we get all of them yet," she said.

"Some undercurrents are a nice breeze on an ocean, and some of it is more choppy and stormy," Kortus said about the plot.

Since this show is not as widely known to the everyday audience, actors must portray their part clearly so the audience knows what is going on.

"You have to take certain pauses and hit certain words so that not only [does the audience] know what's going on, but so that the other character on stage can react appropriately," Kortus said.

"I feel like there's some giggles in the show – some gasps perhaps," Campbell said. "I think that I definitely feed off of that."

The cast feels confident about their progress in rehearsals and think they are improving with rehearsal of each scene. The final product will premiere in A.A. Fredericks Nov. 1 and run through Nov. 5. Tickets for "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" can be reserved by calling 318-357-4218.

Holly's Voodoo weekend experience

HOLLY JENKINS *Reporter*

Halloween weekend, thousands of people gathered at City Park in New Orleans for Voodoo Music + Arts Experience, a three day event featuring music, food, art and more.

This year's lineup featured headliners Kendrick Lamar, Foo Fighters and The Killers as well as other acts, including The Head and the Heart, Cold War Kids and Post Malone.

The chilly weather had me burrowed in my rain jacket all weekend, but many festivalgoers chose to dress up. I saw many an alien costume, but Rick Sanchez and Eleven from "Stranger Things" were also prevalent.

Sophomore Kaylyn Kegans attended for the first time this



Photo by Charles Reagan Hackleman

year and plans to attend again next year.

"I was super pumped to see Post Malone, but I thought he was disappointing and the crowd was too large," Kegans said. "I didn't think I would enjoy any of the EDM artists, but RL Grime ended up being my favorite show."

Prior to the festival, I was most excited to see The Killers — a favorite of mine for years. However, I ended up more impressed with the smaller groups, particularly Black Pistol Fire.

Black Pistol Fire is an

indie-rock band comprised of lead vocalist and guitarist Kevin McKeown and drummer Eric Owen. According to their official website they draw inspiration from groups such as Nirvana, Led Zeppelin and Muddy Waters, but they remind me a lot of Jack White's band The Dead Weather. Either way, they left me and my friends wanting to hear more.

One of my favorite things about the festival was the food, which was exactly as amazing as you would expect food in New Orleans to be. Jambalaya, gumbo and other Louisiana classics were offered, but my favorite was a grilled cheese sandwich filled with mac and cheese and bacon.

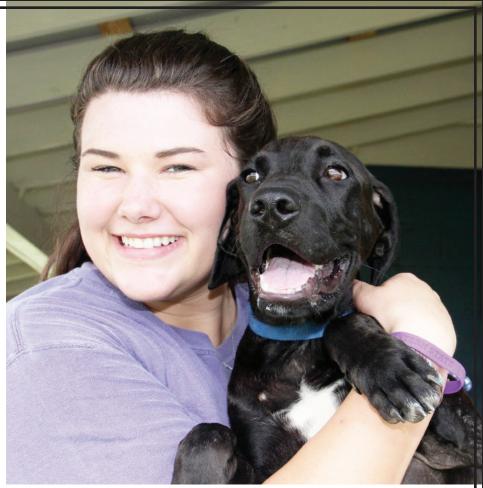
Reminiscent of an amusement park, the festival grounds also featured a Ferris wheel and an interactive

haunted graveyard complete with spooky music and characters.

Art vendors sold items ranging from Halloween costumes to incense burners. Face painting was also offered, which I took part in myself. The face painting artists were able to draw something as simple as a flower or as complex as a sugar skull. Due to the long line of customers the process took a while, but the end result was worth it.

Overall, I thought Voodoo Fest was a great experience, and I recommend that any student who is able to attend in the future does. This was my first time attending a music festival, so I don't have anything else to compare it to. But it lived up to my expectations and I plan to be back next year.





WE'REALLABOUT THE ANIMALS.

You may think about doing something to help animals but not know what to do or be able to contribute financially. There are other ways to support the Natchitoches Humane Society and make a difference in the lives of the animals of Natchitoches Parish.

Financial donations are always needed and appreciated, but your time is also a much-needed commodity. Volunteers are needed to transport animals to vet visits, to pick up points for transport, and to new homes. Volunteers can help with fundraising and with outreach programs.

The more people that are involved, the more animals that can be saved, and hopefully, the future for the animals of Natchitoches Parish will be far different from what it is today.

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE NATCHITOCHES HUMANE SOCIETY





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ECURRENTSAUCE *Northwestern State University's*

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Edwards, Schroder to face off

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

A fter the state primary ended with no candidate receiving over 50 percent of the vote Oct. 14, the Louisiana Treasurer will be selected with a run-off election. Democrat Derrick Edwards and Republican John Schroder will face off again Nov. 18 with early voting taking place until Nov. 11.



Derrick Edwards

After breaking his neck and suffering permanent paralysis from the neck down, Democrat Derrick Edwards graduated from Tulane University School of Business and Loyola University College of Law. He has no political background but has been a practicing attorney in New Orleans since 2003.

As part of his campaign, Edwards has focused on accountability and transparency, education and wasteful government spending.

If elected, Edwards plans to post bills costing the taxpayers to the state treasurer's website and social media. This way, Louisiana citizens will know what money is being spent on and who voted for each bill.

He also promises to fight further cuts to education and the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, as well as work to prevent more cuts to healthcare.

"We have to stop putting the tax burden and budget cuts on the middle class and working people of Louisiana," his website says.

More information on Derrick Edwards is available on his campaign website at votederrickedwards.com



John Schroder

Rep. Schroder graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University and is a veteran of the U.S. Army. Before becoming a representative in the state Legislature, Schroder owned a small business and was a real estate agent and developer.

10 During his years Legislature, the the in representative served eight different committees, including Appropriations, Joint Budget, Special Committee Military on Affairs and the Taskforce for Legal Representation of Children.

He is also a founder of the "House Fiscal Budget Hawks," a "group of legislators committed to ending wasteful government spending, balancing the budget and ending the practice of using onetime money on recurring expenses," according to Schroder's election website.

Schroder has been avidly against raising taxes for Louisiana citizens in his campaign platform. Instead, he is advocating for a more straightforward budgeting process and a complete overhaul of the state tax system.

"Louisiana has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. We are structurally broken," his website says.

As treasurer, Schroder vows that he will stand for the taxpayers first.

More information on John Schroder can be found on his campaign website at johnschroder.com

Power outage strikes Natchitoches again

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

As if someone had flipped a switch, Northwestern States's lights were shut off leaving students in the dark Nov. 2.

Charles Brossette, department head for utilities in Natchitoches, said the outage was caused by a vine. The dead vine was wet from rain, and wind blew it into a transformer box, causing the power outage.

The outage affected a large portion of Natchitoches. Along with NSU's campus, the bypass, Interstate 49 and other areas of west Natchitoches were affected. Power was restored after approximately 30 minutes.

In many campus buildings, students were stuck in the dark. Sophomore psychology major Mia Adams was stuck in Vic's during the power outage because she could not pay for her food.

"I feel like with the situation given, the problem was handled well," she said. "If it would have gone on for much longer, it would have been a bigger problem."

Freshman natural science major Alexis Trosclair was relieved she was not in an elevator when the power went out.

"I was safe in my chair in class [when the power went out]," she said.

Trosclair's class was canceled along with another handful of classes.

Junior criminal justice major Cierra Evans was on her way to her Spanish class when the power went out. Like Trosclair, her teacher dismissed class, saying there was nothing that could be done with no power.

"We can't do anything; technology is down," Evans said. Her Spanish class was canceled after the teacher checked homework.

Students navigated the halls of Kyser using cell phone flashlights due to the large number of emergency lights not working. It was noticed some stairwells in Kyser were completely dark.

On NSU's grounds website, they recommend students keep flashlights in case of power outage, and students should await instructions from a physical plant employee or University Police.

Students with questions concerning emergency procedures should contact the grounds departments at 318-357-6197.

SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

After past weeks of sparse meeting agendas and few reports given by the cabinet, the Student Government Association had lengthy meeting Nov. 6, passing three resolutions, committee appointments announcing numerous SGA-sponsored event dates.

SGA Advisor Shayne Creppel reminded SGA of their role as the governing body in his meeting report.

"As we begin to quickly approach the end of the semester, let us continue to focus on meaningful bills and resolutions to improve the student experience," he said.

President Tre Nelson first commented on the Nov. 5 mass shooting at a church in Texas. "Keep those people in your mind and prayers throughout the week as they figure out everything from there," he said.

Cops and Cane's will be Nov. 9 at noon in the Stroud Room of the Athletic Fieldhouse; this is an SGA-memberonly event intended to thank and discuss issues with the NSU Police Department.

The SGA office in the Student Union Ballroom will now be locked at night; scantrons were reported to be stolen from the office. Sen. Jacob Ellis said the NSU Bookstore scantron prices are doubling due to high demand.

"We're trying to find new ways to do the scantron giveaway [for students]," he said.

The Student Self-Assessed Fee process for Athletics was held this week. The Athletic Department is expected to post its budget soon.

Visit nsulastudentmedia.com for the full article.

<u>| NOV. 8, 2017</u>

High schoolers take over airwaves folice Blotter

CINNAMON PLAYER Contributina Writer

he annual The Journalism Day at NSU hosted approximately 200 high school students. Freshmen through seniors involved in media programs came Nov. 3 to learn from panelists and compete in broadcast and print media competitions.

winner Pardue of Elysian Fields will receive a \$1,000 scholarship if she chooses to attend NSU as a communications major and work with student media.

One onsite competition the Department of New Media, Journalism, Communication Arts organizes for the event is a live radio announcing competition, which included 15 broadcasters this year.

'There [are] going to be some participants that have had little to no exposure in radio," said Jane Close, NSU alumna and radio host for 94.9 FM The River. "My goal as a judge [is] to listen for confidence and give feedback on areas of improvement."

Students in attendance expected to learn from the experience. C.E Byrd Gavin



Student prepare scripts for their on-air competition. Photo by NSU Photographic Services

wanted to learn how to project his voice and sound more professional.

Horan placed third in the competition. Kaitlyn Taylor from Natchitoches Central placed second, and Hanna Miller from the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts placed first.

"Considering the age of the participants, I was pleasantly surprised with their performance," Close said. "Overall, I think each participant has the potential to pursue a career in radio or other media professions."

Students were given a list of facts and 20 minutes to compile a 30-second script to announce live on KNWD.

The competition allowed high school students the opportunity to gain insight, tips and experience with radio news writing and announcing.

"Choose an area that you like, that you love and if you do this you would never work a day in your life. It will always be fun going to work," said Arthur Dew, professor of radio and television at NSU.

"One of the most important skills I believe a person should



Photo by Sean McGraw Scholarship winner Sarah Pardue

have when pursuing radio is the art of being personable and relatable," Close said. "You want to engage with your listener on a one-on-one level. Capturing the attention, and holding it like a face-to-face conversation is what keeps the listener coming back for

"There is a special skill where you have to perform as a broadcaster," said Noah Baudoin, KNWD general manager. "For some students it may come easier and for students that it doesn't come easy to, I plead that they don't get discouraged. There's room for improvement."

October 30

1629 hours University Place II Fire extinguished

Burglary 2007 hours

University Columns

October 31

Burglary 1957 hours University Columns

November 1

Fight

1414 hours Theatre West Lot Summons issued

November 2

Drug Law Violation 0233 hours University Columns Warning given

November 3

Drug Law Violation 0119 hours Tarlton Drive Summons issued

Property Damage 2200 hours Demon Drive

Sodexo contracted to provide food service until 2026

Contributing Writer

Students can expect to be served by Sodexo for at least nine more years after NSU former president Dr. Henderson extended Sodexo's contract in March 2016. The extension came the understanding that Sodexo would establish a coffee shop, which they delivered on last year.

extending Jennifer Kelly, contract. assistant to the Provost for Academic Support and Auxiliary Services, some Student Government Association members were consulted. Otherwise, it is unknown if more student input was taken into consideration when contract was extended.

"Dr. Henderson was always communication with



Photo by Justin Burr

Eric Bourg, Jacqueline Coleman and Dylan Graves have lunch in Vic's, one campus eatery operated by Sodexo.

students," Kelly said when asked if student feedback had a role in the contract extension.

General Manager NSU Dining Services Steve Kauf said Sodexo and NSU conducted student focus

groups when designing the coffee shop that later became Café DeMon, and he hopes to continue receiving student input on important decisions.

"I think they need to communicate with students actively," theatre

student Lexi Mancuso said of Sodexo. "After all, a good bit of students are required to have a meal plan."

Kauf stressed they are making efforts to feed 4,000 people, and anyone can visit his office to offer suggestions. Currently, Sodexo hopes to reboot Student Culinary Council food committee meetings by the spring These meetings semester. are held by Sodexo to receive feedback.

"If someone says, 'The food sucks,' that doesn't help me very much," Kauf said. "But we are constantly looking to change. Come to my office, make suggestions let us know."

Mancuso said as the NSU student population grows, so do the dietary needs Sodexo's customers. emphasized being a vegetarian can make

difficult to have a meal plan, though she complimented Green Corner, a vegetarian dining option in

Kauf said Sodexo is looking for staff to focus on improving The Green Corner.

"If you eat at the same place 21 times a day, it's going to be boring," Kauf said. "Communicate with us; I'm happy to receive your feedback."

With nine more years ahead of Sodexo, students can offer feedback concerning their dining options and food quality by visiting Steve Kauf's office next to The Grill. Students can also send suggestions through the NSU Dining Services website, through comment cards at each dining location or through the annual student satisfaction survey conducted by Sodexo.

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JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

KNWD DJ personalities vary from the themes of their radio shows to their academics and professional aspirations. While some DJs involved with the station are associated with the New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts or Creative and Performing Arts departments, others find themselves in the station despite their majors.

DJ BEXRDWN

Senior music business major "DJ BEXRDWN" Xavier Matthews serves as KNWD's DJ Coordinator and has his own show at the station, "Bexrdwn's Spectrum of Sound," Saturdays at 1 p.m. He describes his sound as "future bounce," a mixture of old soul, hip hop, trap and more.

Matthews says he loves sharing music with the public and the opportunities KNWD has opened up for him, as well as interacting with the other DJs in the station.

"Coming into the radio station opened up the gates to media and [the] music industry and learning how to produce, become a sound engineer [and] get into audio production," he said.

Not only does he organize the DJ selection process after applications are submitted and meet with DJs throughout the semester, but he has also started his own side projects to potentially help DJs with futures in radio.

"I'm currently doing a project where I'm building a radio show archive – [basically] a folder full of all the radio shows," Matthews said. "If a DJ wants to put in a resume for a radio station [in the future], they can have a piece of their work to go along with it."

BEXRDWN will open KNWD's EDM and hip hop festival Neon Inferno, which features headliner DJENKO.

DJ SMOKE DAWG & MESSY MO

"Live in the Dawg House with KREW" with "DJ Smoke Dawg" Regis Perry and cohost "Messy Mo" Moesha Smith features hip hop and R&B music with a side of Question of the Day.

"We may talk about things that are going on in the world – music, sports, politics – anything of that nature that's important," Perry said.

"It's normally controversial, [but] we just try

to keep it neutral," Smith said. "Last week we did a Would You Rather question, and it was 'would you rather live one life for a thousand years or live ten different lives a hundred years at a time?"

Although Perry says he is more laid back when it comes to planning for the show, Smith describes herself as "the bossy one" who likes to structure show segments between music breaks.

Similar to Matthews, both found being a DJ has helped with their respective majors.

"As a social work major, it's helped me learn that if I know what I'm talking about, I'm not really scared to talk in front of people," Smith

"Live in the Dawg House with KREW" airs on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

DJ SUNSHINE

Sophomore Robyn Beatty runs "Morning Sunrise with DJ Sunshine," a Sunday morning show dedicated to lesser known indie pop and indie rock music with segments such as Motivational Quotes and Fun Facts.

"The motivational quote is supposed to help you jump-start your week [and] help get you prepared for a good, successful week," Beatty said.

Bright-eyed with a bubbly personality, Beatty exudes the positive DJ Sunshine attitude not only on her radio show, but in her day-to-day life as well.

"I just take it as it goes [and] with a grain of salt," she said.

A theatre kid to her core, Beatty selects songs on Thursdays and rehearses her script until her Sunday show, including her tradition of going to Café DeMon before coming to the station.

"For me, [my show is] like my own theatre outlet," she said. "It's my own personal growth and an experience I'll never forget because [not everyone] can say that they [had their own radio show] in college."

THE NAMELESS DJ

Dean Mayeux, clad in a Pokémon Eevee evolution graphic tee, is The Nameless DJ of "Golducks, Glissandos & Game Tunes," also known as Triple G, which airs Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

Mayeux considers his show a spin-off of another KNWD show, "Hollywood Milestones," with a video game soundtrack focus. He provides basic information about games on his show such as gameplay and reviews, including discussion with a rotating cast of guest hosts. Even his DJ name derives from video games; The Nameless DJ is based off of The Nameless King in Dark Souls 3.

Triple G is a way to unwind outside of classes and a busy schedule for the junior music education major.

"This is the one hour out of the week where being in that studio I'm just completely cut off from everything else in the world," he said. "I can just sit in the station and listen to music and talk about a good video game."

Since starting Triple G, Mayeux said he has come to appreciate video games differently than he once did.

"It has broadened a little bit of my horizon as far as the concept of video games as art," the DJ said. "There's just as much work that has to go into the music that goes into the gameplay and the graphic design and everything else. A music score can make or break a video game just as much as a movie [score] can."



DJENK NOV.17 7-11PM NORMALHILL



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Photo by Sean McGraw

Demons pick up win

DOUG IRELAND

NSU Sports Information Director

Northwestern State lost its starting quarterback and its leading tackler to injuries during Saturday's home game against Abilene Christian, and was already without its top receiver and a dynamic return specialist, who couldn't even dress out.

But the Demons prevailed 26-23 in overtime, with an outstanding team effort – and a little luck, said fifth-year head coach Jay Thomas.

"We found little Mojo. He had been missing for a long while, and finally got back on our sideline," he said.

NSU (3-6 overall, 3-4 in the Southland Conference) won on the last play for the second straight week. Getting some overdue breaks helped.

ACU kicker Nik Grau, the first-team preseason All-Southland choice who was 21 of 25 over the past two seasons and hadn't missed inside 40 yards in seven tries this year, was off the mark three times, the last one a 34-yard miss ending the game. He was unsuccessful on a 48-yarder to win with 13 seconds left in regulation, and on a 53-yarder earlier.

"We got enough pressure on their kicker, so he knew we were coming and that can make a difference," Thomas said. "He's a good kicker who missed three, so I believe what our guys did had an influence."

If not for an offensive pass interference call in overtime, the Wildcats would have won. After Eric Piccione's 39-yarder pushed the Demons up 26-23, the penalty erased a 17-yard touchdown pass and pushed ACU back to the 32.



Sophomore forward Jocelyn Scott runs up the court in Prather Coliseum during the women's scrimmage.

Photo by Chris Reich

Basketball season begins with scrimmage

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

Excitement buzzed in Prather Coliseum as players entered the court. Soon, a scrimmage began between the players, showcasing new additions to each team. Impressive as each team was, Vic the Demon stole the show by sinking a one handed dunk, earning some of the loudest cheers of the night.

After an entertaining tip-off event, both the men's and women's Northwestern State basketball teams are ready for the 2017-2018 season to begin in November.

The two teams have the same goal this year: Grow from last year's season, and win the Southland Conference championship.

"Last year, our expectation was to win the conference championship and make it to the NCAA tournament," senior point guard Devonte Hall said. "But sometimes things don't go as planned and we fell a little short."

Fellow teammate Iziahiah Sweeney agreed.

"Last season started off really good, but then we got unlucky and had some injuries, which threw off our chemistry," Sweeney said.

The same can be said of the Lady Demons.

"We were 13 [wins] and 17 [losses last year]," said Jordan Depuy, women's basketball head coach. "I thought we could have been a lot stronger, especially on the road."

Junior post Cheyenne Brown agreed

with Depuy.

"Last season didn't go as planned, [but] we played as best as we could," she said. "The returners want to do better, and I know I want to do better."

The memory of last season is not putting either team down; instead, they use it as motivation for the coming season.

"I've been putting in a lot of extra work and trying to be more of a vocal leader in practice," Sweeney said.

"We're in pretty decent shape as of right now," Dupuy said. "We continue to lift weights three days a week, and we're practicing five days a week. It's shaping up pretty well, but you don't know until you're put into a game-like situation."

Each team's hard work will soon be put to the test, and rather than focusing on certain games, they are focusing their thoughts on the season as a whole.

"All the games are pretty much equal," Hall said. "Every game is important, especially early on because that's where you get your feet settled."

Dupuy said the same concept is being applied to the women's team.

"Every conference game is important, and conference is what you prepare for," Dupuy said. "You want to make sure you're playing your best ball going into March and put yourself into a good position to get a good seed in hopes of winning the tournament in the end."

Both Sweeney and Dupuy mentioned a few players to keep on the radar.

"Of course [there is] Jalan West, and

Ishmael Lane is in his junior year, so it's a big year for him," Sweeney said. "I feel like [people] should also look out for Czar Perry, who is a fast freshman point guard who brings excitements to the court."

"We have some new players who can make an immediate impact [such as] Nautica Grant and Leah Barnes who are junior college transfers and Cheyenne Brown who will start the season out with an injury," the women's coach said.

Sweeney said the freshmen are starting to make themselves known.

"They're doing really well. They've gone above my expectations by playing with confidence, which is something we'll need going into this season," he said.

Both teams are ready to kick their upcoming seasons off.

"I believe when the time comes, [we'll] be ready. It might be a rough start, but I think we'll be just fine," Brown said.

"I'm looking forward to the games and getting out there and playing each night," Sweeney said. "Just enjoying the experience one last time."

Both teams kick off their seasons on the road. While the men began with a game preview exhibition at Grambling Nov. 6, the first official games will be played Nov. 10 against the men's team at the University of Texas at Austin and the women's team at Ole Miss. The Demons make their home debut against LeTourneau University Nov. 12; Lady Demons play at 2 p.m., followed by the men at 4 p.m.



The Eyes of Argus

From the Poet Tree

I want... A cabin in the woods, A cottage by the sea; Anywhere I'm less stressed, And more me... Until then, I'll take as mine, A deep blue sky and a tall pine, A rustling breeze and a river bend; Not really mine, just a lend.

Dance with the waves, Move with the sea. Let the rhythm of the water, Set your soul free.

Argus magazine deadline nearing

KATIE RAYBURN

Argus Editor-in-Chief

Argus, the art and literary magazine on campus, wants to remind students the deadline to submit is fast approaching.

We welcome all submissions of art, photography, poetry and short stories. The theme this year is language, which means we want to hear your unique voice, culture and experiences. You can even win cash prizes! The deadline to submit is Dec. 1. Submissions can be made at argusnsu.submittable.com. Also, follow us on Facebook and Instagram for news and updates. We look forward to seeing your language!

The work submitted must be original and submitted with a valid Northwestern State University email address (ex. jsmith123456@nsula. edu) to qualify. If you wish to submit multiple pieces to Argus, you must fill out a submission form for each.

Those interested in submitting fine art or photography, simply take a photo of your work and submit the picture.

If you are submitting poetry, fiction or creative nonfiction, please try to submit no more than eight pages - double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt - as longer pieces will be harder to place.

Questions, comments, concerns? Email us at argusnsu@gmail.com

Tips and tricks for motivation

ZOE ALMARAZ

Reporter

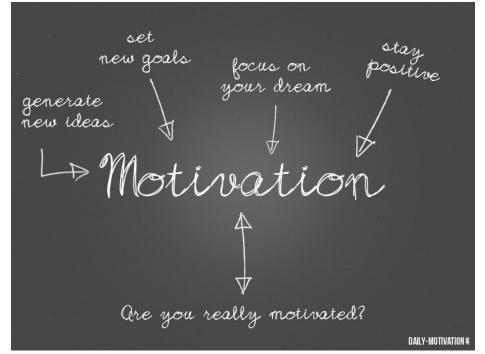
With the end of the school semester fast approaching, sometimes it can be hard to feel motivated and keep working until the end. Despite this, there are always ways to keep going.

The first way is to schedule everything out. Before going to bed or right when you get up in the morning, make a list of things you want to accomplish and need to do. Writing everything down lets your brain see everything that needs to get done and then plan the day out.

A big part of to-do lists and self-set deadlines is to not let yourself worry too much. It's okay to miss your selfset deadline and to reset or adjust it. For example, if you're working on a paper and you can't seem to get one page done per day like you wanted to, then start with half a page until you can write a whole page.

Another important tip is to schedule time for yourself. Set aside a half an hour per day or one rest day per week where you can just sit and relax. Overworking yourself can lead to extreme stress and breakdowns. Find time to treat yourself, whether it's to a nice bath, a new episode of your favorite show or a food you've really been craving.

you're having trouble understanding material or studying, don't be afraid to reach out. Schedule



Graphic by Daily Motivation

coursework with your professor, and ask if they can go more in-depth than they did in class. Sometimes one-on-one sessions can help you reach a breakthrough.

There's also tutoring in the Academic Success Center in Watson Library where tutors will work with you to help you understand the material. More information and the form to request a tutoring session is available at nsula.edu/ academic-success-center

Finally, the most important thing you can do is take care of yourself. If you're feeling stressed or depressed,

a time to work through your talk to someone. Your teachers and friends are there to listen and help you in your day-to-day life. If a deadline is stressing you out, talk to your professor and see if you can get an extension or work something out. The Counseling and Career Services office is also open to anyone who needs it, and they accept walk-ins.

The end of the semester can be a tricky time for everyone, but following these tips can help ease some of the stress this time of year can bring. There are always ways to help yourself; if you see someone struggling, don't be afraid to reach out and help them as well.

The Edge offers new club experience

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

A May application for local bar Ron's Place to become a sexuallyoriented business was withdrawn after overwhelming opposition from city officials and community members. Mayor Lee Posey called the proposed topless bar "something we don't need in our community."

Nonetheless, owner Ron Bolton pressed on with a rebranding project to create The Edge, a bar offering the "club experience" with effect lights, a fog machine, VIP room, billiards tables and more, located at 7096 Highway 1.

'Come have fun, no matter who you are," Bolton said.

The Edge originally opened under the name "Illuminations" in 1997

when Bolton purchased the building. At its prime in the early 2000s, the then-R&B-oriented club attracted college students along with an older crowd. Bolton said the line to get in used to stretch far outside the building.

But in 2006, one incident caused business at Illuminations to dry up.

Charles 23-year-old Edwards Jr. fatally shot Ronnie Brimzey of Natchitoches in the club parking lot early on a Sunday morning. He was later arrested and charged with second-degree murder, for which he was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment.

Aside from booking private parties, Illuminations was no longer popular in Natchitoches nightlife.

"We didn't ever bounce back," Bolton said.

He wants prospective guests to know The Edge is a fun and safe environment. They are determined to provide Natchitoches with a true club experience that other local bars are unable to deliver - at least not of the caliber they are ready to show.

"We don't discriminate," Bolton said. "We want everybody to come have a good time."

Highlights for NSU students include Alternative Lifestyle Wednesdays students get in free with their NSU ID until 10:30 p.m. - and CAPA Fridays. Half of Fridays' cover charge proceeds will be donated to the Spirit of Northwestern marching band for new uniforms. The bar also offers \$1 well shots on Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more information or to rent out The Edge for a private party, call 318-332-4024 or 318-652-6694.

OPINION NOV. 8, 2017



Photo by Justin Burr

Among the most prominent remnants of Confederate influence on our campus are the three white columns that were once a part of the Bullard mansion. These columns are used in the NSU seal and primary logo.

The Confederacy is more than a flag

HANNAH MORRIS *Contributing Writer*

Leopold Caspari was a
French emigrant who later
became a captain of the
Confederacy, a democratic
member of the Louisiana
House of Representatives (the
old democrat, not the current,
for those of you thinking
a point has been made), a
member of the Natchitoches
Parish School Board and a
member of the Louisiana
Senate.

A quote by Dr. Chris Maggio, president of Northwestern State University, stands out in my mind: "NSU can be a shining example for other universities."

We should want our university to be an example for others in a positive way. By keeping a street and a building named after a captain of the Confederacy, we promote a negative example to others who might be considering making a change at their university as well.

By keeping the columns representative of the former Bullard mansion on campus as a symbol of our university, we are not preserving history; we are promoting an unequal existence at this school that should have died with the Civil War.

While Caspari was an integral part of NSU's founding, the original intent

of the school was "for the benefit of white persons of either sex," which is not the ideal our school believes now. In fact, the African American population makes up more than a quarter of our campus today.

Historically, the Civil War was fought between the Union army and the Confederate army over, yes, slavery. Those who sympathize with the Confederacy during this time usually come back with the notion that it was about states' rights; this is half-way true, if you feel a need to look at it this way. The war was fought for states' rights, but it was for states' rights to own slaves.

In fact, multiple states in their secession declarations mention slavery as one of the major reason for leaving the U.S., thus beginning the Civil War.

Mississippi's first sentence in the declaration was the following: "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery – the greatest material interest of the world."

Georgia mentioned slavery in the second sentence of its declaration, and South Carolina wrote that there had been "...an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding States to the institution of slavery, has led to a disregard of their obligations..."

So, as we can see, according to states that seceded, the war was absolutely about slavery.

While I see great value in history, keeping statues, building names or street names that promote the life and doings of Confederate soldiers is not needed, especially during a time that diversity is so coveted. By removing these relics, we are not slandering history, but promoting a future that will be inclusive of everyone.

The renaming of a building or street does not erase the ability to learn about the Civil War and those involved, if it is necessary or desirable to do so. The advantage of record-keeping is that we have books, documentaries and more that cover this specific topic without needing to glorify those who used other human beings for their own benefit.

Understanding the history behind your university and promoting a belief in unequal existence are two different ideas. A conversation should be had about whether we value diversity as a campus or if we value a past drenched in the blood of black brothers and sisters who were never given the opportunity to attend school, or live the life they wanted for themselves.

History can be preserved in a museum; diversity cannot be preserved without the opportunity for it to thrive.

I cannot offer my support to the president

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

A year ago on Nov. 8, I found myself in my apartment scared for the future as I watched the presidential election results file in. That said, my current opinion has not changed but has developed over the past year.

I do not support the current presidential administration.

There is no way that I can cover every single thing that has happened in the past year since Trump was voted by the Electoral College to be the 45th president, but the following is my attempt to offer evidence as to why I still do not support President Trump.

I cannot support an administration that appears to lack organization and lack consistency across all aspects of the administration, already in the fourth quarter of the first year of Trump's presidency.

I cannot support the statement that tweets are to be "considered official statements by the President of the United States." (How do gifs fall into that category?) Yet, others within the administration such as Trump's national security advisor Sebastian Gorka said the opposite.

"It's not policy, it's not an executive order. It's social media," Gorka said in a June interview with CNN.

I cannot support an administration that continues to destroy our planet subversively through the Environmental Protection Agency with orders by the president such as Executive Order 13783, made March 31, which removes regulations on fracking, for example. The organization itself is headed by Trump-appointee Administrator Scott Pruitt, a man who has a limited background in science and who, as administrator, has recused himself from lawsuits he brought against the EPA when he served as an Attorney General for the state of Oklahoma.

I cannot support an administration that incites violence against media and against women yet does not denounce the violence of neo-Nazis and white supremacists of the August events in Charlottesville, Virginia, saying they have some "very fine people" on their side.

Trump has issued statements such as "We must remember this truth: No matter our color, creed, religion or political party, we are all Americans first." The president then contradicts himself time and time again with examples such as the "Muslim Ban" and failing to label the Oct. 1 Last Vegas shooter as an act of domestic terrorism – in my opinion, partially due to the color of Paddock's skin. He is quick to label those with a different color skin as evil or assume they are illegal foreigners.

I cannot support an administration that does not help its citizens. Puerto Ricans – who are American citizens – are still without power and drinking water due to Hurricane Maria, which made landfall on the island Sept. 20. Trump seemed to suggest the blame is to be placed on the Puerto Ricans for the "broken infrastructure & massive debt."

Maybe we could do more to help citizens that are still suffering over a month later instead of building a border wall using taxpayer money, increasing the military spending budget and continually using Hillary Clinton as a diversionary tactic.

What I do support is the spark that has brought so many to their feet. It is easy to become desensitized to the news we hear everyday – shootings, the possibility of nuclear war, terrorist attacks. It is an unending cycle of frustration.

Do not sit back down.



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Remember your freshman freakout? She's having hers now.

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NSU receives state grant for awareness program

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

Northwestern State University was recently awarded a Louisiana Highway Safety Commission grant for \$29,000. The money is distributed across the state to fund educational programs focused on improving driving habits

According to its website, the LHSC's core mission is "Changing Behaviors and Saving Lives." They partner with Louisiana companies to spread awareness about hazardous driving practices, such as distracted driving.

The grant is a renewal of funding NSU has received from the LHSC in past years.

Maggie Welch, a certified counselor who works with Counseling and Career Services, has seen the impact traffic education can have on students.

"There does seem to be a growing awareness across campus regarding the individual responsibilities we all share," she said. "Our choices affect our personal safety as well as the safety of others."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says seat belts saved an estimated 13,941 lives in 2015. But still, 48 percent of those killed that year were unrestrained.

Every day in the U.S., nearly 29 people die from drunk

driving crashes. That equates to 10,497 deaths in 2016 – of which 1,233 were children age 14 or under.

Distracted driving – consisting of anything that takes a driver's attention away from the road – killed almost 3,500 people and injured another 390,000 in 2015. Spending five seconds sending a text or messing with the radio equates to nearly a football field of road missed by a driver.

These statistics led President Dr. Chris Maggio to reapply for the LHSC, with hopes that the money would go toward continued funding for awareness campaigns on NSU's campus.

Maggie Welch also serves as

the faculty advisor for Students with a Target, a student group that "implements peer leadership in order to provide traffic safety education, specific to impaired driving."

SWAT focuses on alcohol awareness, sexual awareness and drug awareness, according to OrgSync. The organization hosts various campaigns for students throughout the year and uses the grant to coordinate and implement its programs.

The programs mainly center around school breaks that are well known to be riddled with underage and obsessive drinking. Some campaigns include the following:

• National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week · Safe Mardi Gras

• Play it Safe for Spring Break

Homecoming Week

specifically **NSU** also traffic safety focuses first-year education on Every student students. is required to complete a pre- and post-test based on program activities to gauge the knowledge gained and the program's effectiveness.

"This rising awareness among college students is evident within the results of the yearly-administered Drug and Alcohol Core Survey," Welch said.

For more information on the effects of distracted and impaired driving, visit lahighwaysafety.org

Police Blotter

November 7

Theft 1455 hours PA30

Simple Battery 2012 hours PA23 No charges pursued

November 8

Stalking 1651 hours Iberville

November 9

Vehicle Burglary 1430 hours Caspari Street Arrest made

November 11

Simple Battery 1812 hours WRAC

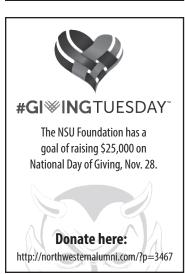




Photo by Justin Burr

Jesus Lifted Ministries Community Center opened in July on South Drive for students and community members to network.

New business opens for students, locals

MELISSA TAYLOR

Reporter

A new community center opened on South Drive offering free Wi-Fi, coffee and a quiet place for students to study.

Pamela Lockridge, owner of Jesus Lifted Ministries Community Center, opened it in July because she wanted to provide a place for students and community members to meet and support each other.

"I wanted a place for [students] to be self-motivated and see how their skills fit into their

community," Lockridge said.

The community center is faith-based, and there are Bible studies weekly.

Students who are looking for internship opportunities should contact Lockridge. Though this internship would be unpaid, applicants can build their resumes and gain experience in tutoring or basic tech support.

The center offers a variety of activities aside from being a quiet study location. There are low- and high-impact group exercise sessions, chess lessons and tournaments, Bible studies

and support groups for a handful of different things.

"People are so engrossed and busy that they don't get that social interaction," Lockridge said. "I want the community to be able to come together outside of the tourism aspect of our town."

The center's hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., but hours may change with the needs of the community.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating should contact Lockridge at 318-413-1814, or stop by the community center at 99 South Dr. Suite B.

SGA Minutes

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

President Tre Nelson began the meeting with a few finals words regarding the semester before giving his report.

"We've entered the final downhill," Nelson said. "It's been a really good semester of SGA, [and] I've thoroughly enjoyed it."

There will be no SGA meeting Nov. 27 due to the SGA Christmas Party Nov. 29; a venue has not yet been selected.

Leadership NSU has been scheduled for Jan. 26-27, 2018. The planning committee met Nov. 14 to discuss details.

Late Night Breakfast will be held on "dead day" Dec. 4 in Iberville Dining Hall. Final exams begin Dec. 5.

Leadership Luncheon will be held in the President's Room on Nov. 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. It is open to all students and meant to introduce NSU leadership to the student body. Jambalaya and meat pies will be served.

Tau Kappa Epsilon will hold a Cane's sponsor night Nov. 15 to raise money for St. Jude. President Lajarious Jones will shave his head if \$450 is raised.

Kappa Sigma is selling \$2 raffle tickets to benefit fallen police officers in the Lafayette and New Orleans areas. The raffle prize is a 45-quart Yeti cooler.

|NOV. 15, 2017



Middle blocker Madeline Drake attacks the ball against Sam Houston State blockers.

Photo by NSU Photographic Services

Volleyball heads to Conference Tournament

SAMANTHA MAIETTE Reporter

fter a long and tiring A season, the Northwestern State Lady Demons volleyball team successfully clinched a spot among the top eight teams in the Southland Conference, sending them straight to the conference tournament Nov. 17-19 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

"It's been a great season overall," Head Coach Sean Kiracofe said. "We hit the ground running and had a great match against Colorado in the first match of the year, and they're [ranked] in the top 25 [of NCAA Division I volleyball]."

middle blocker Junior Madeline Drake agreed with Kiracofe.

"So far, we've had a really great season, [and] we've improved a lot over the past still a pretty young team, but we have a lot of potential."

The team has showed through growth several different aspects of play including their depth.

"This year, we have a strong group of core starters," Kiracofe said. "If something isn't working out, there's a lot we can do to make changes to attack another team and give them a different look, and that just provides us more options to win matches."

The depth along with the experience of the team is something that will help the Lady Demons as they return to the conference tournament.

"We're now up there in the top half of the conference. We can compete with anybody," Kiracofe said. "We've had two number-one teams come in here, and we beat them. So

two seasons," she said. "We're I think that no matter who we match up with going into the tournament next week, we have a great chance getting past them. And once you're in the second round, you're one win away from the finals, and anything can happen."

> Drake is taking what she learned last year and applying it to her game this year, especially leading into the tournament.

> "I learned that you can't win with a single individual. It's a team sport, and you need everyone on the team and court to contribute so we can win together," she said.

> Freshman outside hitter Hannah Brister is anticipating first conference tournament with excitement.

> "It's surreal," she said. "It's great knowing that I did something for the team to make it there, but everyone has a part in it."

The Lady Demons reached the tournament through hard work and a couple of big wins against two-time defending champions Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Sam Houston State University.

"At the time, we were the only team to have swept [Texas A&M-Corpus Christi], so that was a big deal to win and to beat them in three sets," Kiracofe said, also mentioning the "huge" Sam Houston win recently.

Drake agreed with her coach once again.

"The big wins felt great... It proved to everyone on the team that we can compete with the big teams," she said.

The fifth-ranked Demons will travel to Corpus Christi, Texas, for the Southland Conference Tournament kicking off Nov. 17 and concluding with the final round Nov. 19.



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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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(318) 357-5456



Construction completed for Christmas Festival

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

Natchitoches is typically known as a small and quiet town of around 18,000 people. During Christmas Fest, however, this changes. According to the Natchitoches Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Natchitoches Christmas Festival is one of the nation's oldest holiday festivals, a fitting title for one of the nation's oldest towns.

Christmas Fest has been consistently ranked among the best in the country by Yahoo, the American Bus Association and The Southeast Tourism Society, among others.

The festival, which is the biggest annual event in Natchitoches, brings in roughly 26,000 people on parade day – and that's only including people who purchase an armband to go downtown. The number does not include people outside the gated area, which Festival Director Lee Waskom estimates is around 15,000.

Roughly 350,000 people come to view the lights during the rest of the holiday season.

The town boasts over 300,000 lights and set pieces on the riverbank. 2017 will mark the 91st annual festival and will feature recurring events such as the weekly fireworks shows and the parade. However, festivalgoers will notice a few changes this year.

Since summer 2016, construction on the riverbank has left the area closed to the public. According to Festival and Events Director Jill Leo, the \$4 million project was recently completed – just in time for the 2017 festival.

"We're so excited to take advantage of all the new amenities including the Santa House, amphitheatre, stage and especially the ramps," Leo says.

The only feature that remains incomplete is the new bathrooms, which won't be complete until after the festival. In the meantime, bathrooms by Beau Jardin on the north end of the riverbank will remain open.

Leo looks at this year's festival as an opportunity for a fresh start after the cancellation of last year's parade due to

inclement weather.

"The new riverbank is already opening up so many opportunities that we couldn't have had in the past," she says, highlighting an upcoming performance by NSU Middle Lab School and Natchitoches Central High School Dec. 14. "This is the kind of activity we want to see more of"

According to Leo, the biggest complaint received on the construction is that the money should have been used to repair city roads. The project, funded by the Cane River Waterway Commission, could not have gone toward the roads because it was received via a grant specifically for the riverfront.

Another complaint is the price to get onto Front Street on Festival Day: \$10 for adults. Senior liberal arts major Lindsay Blair would like to see this cost change.

"For the price, they should have more than just food and vendors," she says. "But I can't be too upset, because they've done a lot to the Riverbank this year, and I think the new construction will add another element to historic Front Street."

Luckily for those strapped for cash, the parade can be seen from outside the gated area on Jefferson or Second Street. Armbands are also not needed on most other nights, excluding Saturday nights and Festival night.

The festivities are not limited to festival day either. Throughout the rest of the season, events such as concerts, craft shows, historic house tours and the NSU Christmas Gala are held, marking an entire month of holiday fun.

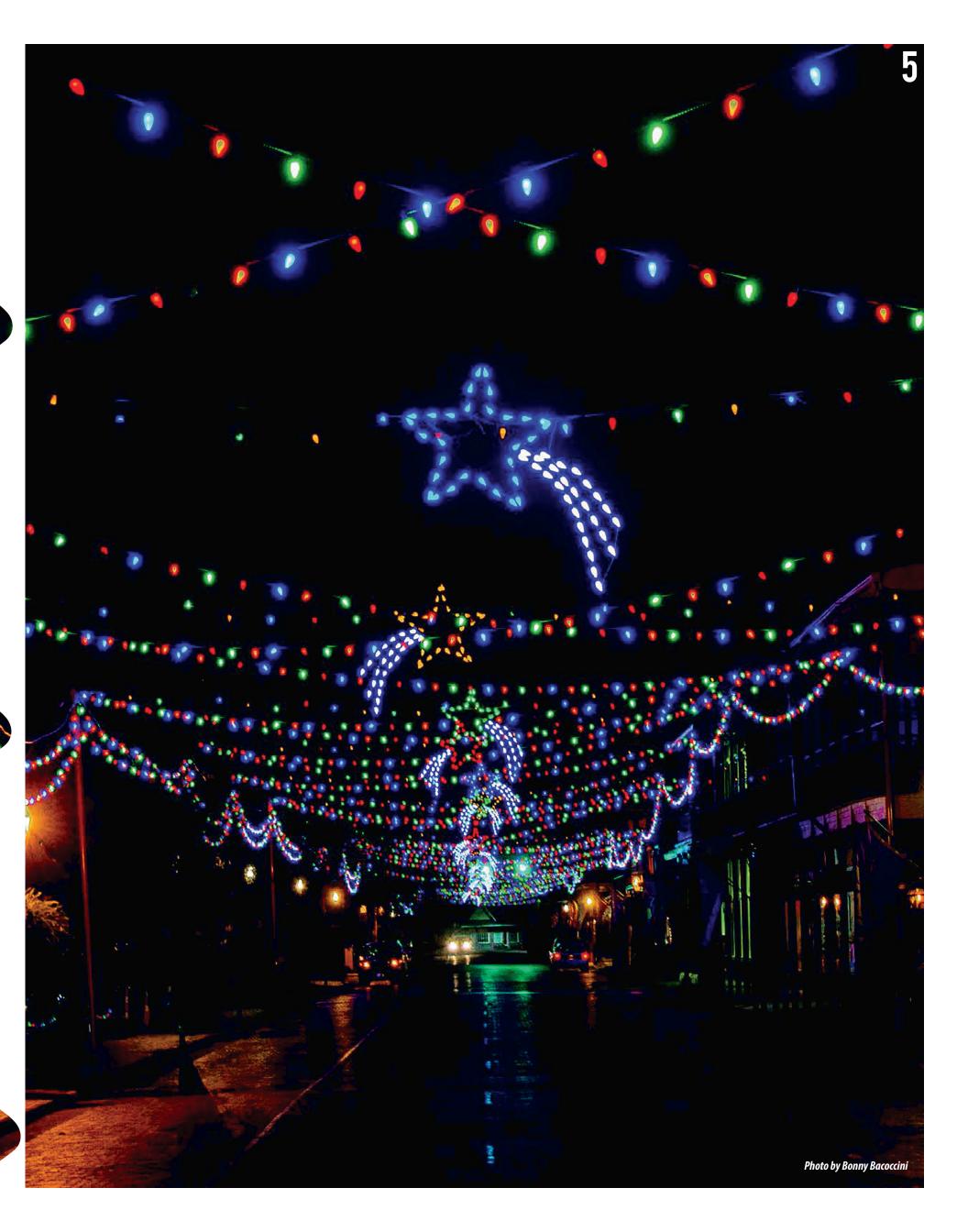
"I get so many phone calls from families about how the festival brings them together," Leo says. "Grandparents, for example, have said they get to come back with their grandkids to the place they remember from their childhood.

"I've even had some young adults that have said they're bringing back a parent or grandparent for one last Christmas Festival. The music and the fireworks are great, but that togetherness is what this is all about."

A full schedule is available at natchitocheschristmas.com







6 ARTS&LIVING NOV. 15, 2017

KNWD's free fall concert

JACOB FARNSLEY
KNWD News Director

NWD's second annual EDM and hip hop fall concert, Neon Inferno, is set for Nov. 17 from 7-11 p.m. on Normal Hill. The event is free to the public, and the first 100 people who arrive will receive light diffraction glasses. There will be a water tent and KNWD swag giveaways including cups, sunglasses, drawstring bags, pens and phone card holders.

"Come get lit with us at Neon Inferno," KNWD General Manager Noah Baudoin said. "Everybody is welcome to this concert and can expect fresh beats from our performing artists; most are local. Do not go home Friday after classes [and instead] start Thanksgiving Break off right by coming to Neon Inferno."

The headliner this year is Djenko, an NSU alumnus who played at Neon Inferno last year as well as DemonFest. St. Branham, Jnabsbeats, The Street Corner and KNWD's DJ Coordinator Xavier Matthews as Bexrdwn will also perform.



Photo by NSU Photographic Services

This year's headliner for Neon Inferno, Djenko, performed at DemonFest 2017.

"I'm actually most excited for The Street Corner's set," Matthews said. "I collaborate with [one of the members] of The Street Corner through Senju the Satellite and I've been trying to get him back up here since his last performance with us at DemonFest."

"The line-up is great," freshman criminal justice major Shania Worfel said. "I'm excited to see Bexrdwn the most, because he has some really great stuff. Also, the event is free, [and] free events are the best events."



The Eyes of Argus

From the Poet Tree

Love! Love! Love for the stranger never met!
For those who have used and broken and sullied you!
For that crooked old dear with the smile of Ra!
For the boy who broke your heart a thousand times!
For those who have called your art trash and obscenity!
For the queers and queens and Quixotes and quiet!
Love! Love for love itself, standing tall amongst the muck!

Waves of missing you Come in like tsunami tides, And I'm starting to think that Living underwater will be just fine.

WE'RE HIRING

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Review: 'Thor: Ragnarok' proves Marvel still knows how to have fun



JACOB BARTELS *Opinion Columnist*

In 2010, Marvel showed the world what a superhero movie could be with the release of "The Avengers." It had the action and adventure of each film before it but added something more with a layer of humor that made the heroes ironically relatable.

Since then, Marvel has sprinkled bits of humor in each and every one of their films, sometimes in moments where it needn't be.

That is what I was expecting out of

"Thor: Ragnarok": a somewhat funny, but otherwise dull, movie, made for the purpose of providing filler for the upcoming "Infinity War" movies.

Boy, was I wrong.

Don't get me wrong – not only was humor sprinkled, it coated almost the entirety of the movie; yet, it wasn't forced. The humor only added to moments and didn't subtract from others.

One of the most prominent features of Ragnarok is its use of color. The majority of the film takes place on a different world, which allowed Marvel the freedom to use the entire color palette. Buildings were comprised of widely- contrasting paint colors. Skies were lit by different-colored wormholes. The saturation of the entire world was incredible.

The sound design was one of the best I've heard in quite a while. The soundtrack was impressive and had me tapping my foot and bobbing my head in parts. But what was truly amazing was the Foley sound effects, particularly anything that had to do with impact (a punch, a character hitting the ground from a great

height, etc.). There are only a few films that have had me wince, going "Ouch, that's really gotta hurt," based solely on sound.

My one qualm is that I wish the film was marketed differently. One of the major scenes has Thor forced to fight in a coliseum. Starting from about 10 minutes before the fight, Marvel tries to get you to start guessing who his opponent is going to be, dropping lines that he is the "best fighter in all the galaxy" and such. However, this loses its meaning because the opponent is featured in every single trailer for the movie. In fact, unless you've somehow managed to completely avoid any advertisements for Ragnarok, you know exactly who I'm referring to.

All of this being said, it is a Marvel movie, and despite me thoroughly enjoying myself, if you're looking for a tear-jerker or something meaningful, this is not the film for you.

However, if you're looking for a fun movie to watch with your mates, have a few laughs and marvel (pun intended) at how good the visuals are, you will not be disappointed.

NOV. 15, 2017 ARTS&LIVING 7

Review: 'Sonic Forces' is another missed opportunity



ANTHONY RENTERIA
Opinion Columnist

Sonic Team is one of the strangest developers in the video game industry. With over 25 years of developing games for the blue blur, they always like to experiment with their games or follow modern trends when they make a game.

This has resulted in many games of questionable quality, whether just average or straight up terrible. With their newest title "Sonic Forces" – available on PS4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch and PC – this doesn't seem to be stopping.

And while this game was an enjoyable experience for myself, it still has glaring problems that hold it back from being as good as I wanted it to be.

Forces is a partial sequel to the 2011 game "Generations"; Takashi Iizuka, the head of Sonic Team describes it as a "brand new experience." It's built with a new engine, known as Hedgehog Engine 2, and is the first next-gen title for the team.

Fans and gamers alike expected that similar to Generations, Forces would focus on Classic and Modern Sonic in all new levels instead of revisiting old ones. But what sets this apart from Generations is a new mechanic for Forces; you can now create your own custom hero.

So, when you have three playable gameplay styles, a development period of four years and a team that seems to know what they are doing, why does the game end up being average?

The first and most important thing to not ruin in any video game is the controls. All three characters suffer from stiff movement, and their jumping feels heavy.

As Modern Sonic, this isn't noticeable until you are forced into 2D sections and have to jump across platforms slowly and carefully. Rather than feeling instant and controllable, the game feels slow and rigid.

Modern Sonic's other problems stem from his weakened moveset and level design. Modern Sonic no longer has a drift, and this ends up with a majority of 3D segments being straight lines with no challenge.

The level design takes a major hit from this decision, and in an effort to be "cinematic," the game adds quicktime events.

During certain stages, the game takes control away from the player to press a button within a timer while a long, scripted animation plays out. They can look epic, but repeated playthroughs of the level brings them down a lot.

While Modern Sonic has taken some steps back, he does take a few steps forward with certain levels. Levels such as Egg Gate and Mortar Canyon have very open level designs that encourage repeated playthroughs to view all the different pathways.

Classic, or Retro, Sonic has no reason to be in the game.

Classic Sonic is one of the worst aspects of Forces. He feels shoehorned in at the last second to satisfy the retro audience, but the game implements him clumsily. He only has five levels in the game, but those are the lowest points of it.

The physics of the game are not done well. No one was expecting a pitch-perfect representation of the classic games, but they also were not expecting him to feel slow and have no concept of momentum. There is a section, for example, where you can run down a long downward slope and appear to be gaining speed just to reach a tiny ramp and not even reach above it.

It's frustrating seeing that "Sonic Mania," a perfect representation of classic games, was just released three months ago. The Classic Sonic you play as in Forces is the same one from Mania.

Because of this, Forces includes the drop dash from that game, but it doesn't add much to Forces, and the levels aren't built with it in mind. Luckily, the new character added to this game wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be.

A major selling point of the game is that you get to create your own custom Sonic character. You can choose from different types of animals, clothing and power-ups. This system feels fun and deep to experiment with and can offer a lot of replay value.

There are endless combinations to come up with, and the routes you take can depend on what power-up or wispon you choose. The alien creatures, the Wisps from "Sonic Colors," make a return as "wispons," or weapons that are powered with the Wisps used by your custom hero.

This can be a flamethrower that can cause mid-air explosions to get to higher areas, lightning whips you use to follow a trail of rings and more that you will unlock as you progress through the game.

The other biggest letdown for me was the story.

"Sonic Forces" tries to go for a more serious tone than what was present in the past few games. Eggman has taken over 99 percent of the world and has a new creation named Infinite who has been wreaking havoc along with him.

The game starts off with Sonic being defeated and taken prisoner as Eggman takes over the world. While I am fine with this approach to the story and some of the returning characters, the dialogue can either be taking itself way too seriously, or just plain stupid – especially during the final moments of the game.

Overall, it is a story that had wasted potential, and what was presented was silly, even for the Sonic series.

"Sonic Forces" was a game that was only four hours long but left me with a lot of aspects to talk about during that time period. It was great in concept but poor in execution.

I enjoyed certain aspects of it and wouldn't call it a bad game. However, I still would recommend a \$10 or \$20 price drop, just for some of the fun gameplay and the silly story. Sonic Team has it in them to make another really great Sonic game, but I think some restructuring and buildup needs to be done to reach that goal.

For now, what was supposed to be Sonic's big return from the four-year gap of Lost World ended in another mediocre game from the team. That doesn't make me angry, but it still makes me sad.

From the archives: An opinion on Iran hostage crisis

KEATOR POLEMAN *Contributing Writer*

The newspaper has always been a place for students to speak their minds. On Nov. 13, 1979, one such student wrote a "Radical Rag" about the then-ongoing situation with the Iranian Hostage Crisis.

Their comments took a rather harsh look at the foreign policy of the U.S. at the time, and their firey speech was aimed at all students – rather all Americans – to take a stand for our values.

^^^

"Well, I am sick and tired of all of this Iranian trash. I wasn't going to say anything about it but I'm fired up.

It seems to me that these great United States have been kicked in the crotch by

yet another 'third-world' country, and our leaders, or so they call themselves, have the worst case of the mealy-mouth I have ever seen. I swear, if I hear our leaders say 'We're keeping a close eye on the situation,' or 'We're currently evaluating our position' one more time, I think I'll barf.

Let's face it folks! We're being pushed around by the great and powerful nation of Iran, a nation that is being run by a bunch of radical (pardon the expression) college students and a religious fanatic, who is perhaps the greatest hypocrite since Judas Iscariot.

And what are we doing about it? We are reevaluating our position..."

Visit traditions.nsula.edu to read the full article and to access other NSII archives.



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BFGoodrich 🍛 DUNLOP WINIROYAL WHANKOOK

OPINION NOV. 15, 2017



"Zzzzzzzzzz..

Photo by Sean McGraw

What am I doing with my life?

MAYGIN CHESSON

Administrative Assistant

You know when you walk up to the cash register and the cashier, as customary, asks you how you're doing? Without missing a beat, I usually reply with "I'm good. How are you?" just to be polite.

But a while back, I was at the grocery store at around midnight, was asked the customary question and had to stop myself from spitting out "Well, since you're asking... I'm avoiding all assignments for classes like the plague. My room is like a messy maze, and I think I might just crumble to the ground right now."

Notice I mentioned I was shopping at the grocery store at around midnight? Who even needs sleep in college?

It's funny, because as an incoming

freshman, I thought things were going to be easy my first semester. As a matter of fact, things were easy – until all of a sudden they just weren't.

I was using my planner ritually, writing down every assignment and event like my life depended on it. I went to every class and I even had just enough time to grab a bite to eat for lunch in between classes. I was acing all my tests like it was nothing. Life seemed easy.

And now here I am.

I haven't written in my planner in weeks. I ran out of DB like a month ago. I have at least three tests that I need to study for and goodness knows how many assignments I have to do. Plus, now I have a job. So where's any free time to have friends or even sometimes eat?

As a senior in high school, people would ask what I wanted to do with

my life, and I'd tell them I wanted to be a psychology major once I was in college. So naturally the question to follow has always been, "What're you doing with your life?"

And yeah, while I'm a psychology major planning on obtaining a doctorate and having my own private practice, my response to that question is a little different now.

Now I say that I'm going to attempt to eat while studying for three different tests and wait on my laundry to get out of the wash. After that, I plan to clean my room and do a few assignments. But if we're being honest, I'll probably really be catching up on "Grey's Anatomy."

When it comes down to it, what I'm really doing with my life is slowly crumbling away like a cookie in milk and procrastinating.

But hey, that's college, right?

Party Girl's most recent wild night

PARTY GIRL Anonymous Contributor

Hey, party people. It's been a while since I've gone on an alcohol-

Are you ready for it?

induced adventure.

I was so fortunate to be able to spend my Halloween at my favorite Natty filth hole, The Press Box. Only this time, it was rented out for Fright Night. For anyone who lives under a rock, this is Sigma Nu's annual Halloween party.

Everyone tells you not to drink the punch at frat parties.

"You never know what's in it."

"My friend got sick from the punch."

"I drank the punch, and I'm telling you: I don't remember anything from that night."

I personally learned my lesson about the punch. This is not my first frat party. Did I still drink four cups of it? Absolutely.

It was a night of partying, dressing as provocatively as you want with no guilt and talking to blackout-drunk guys all night.

With every cup of varying-colored punch, I felt myself surrendering to the alcohol. And you know what? I felt great. Everyone's allowed to destress from the pressure of school, family and any other personal shit building up.

I remember ending up on stage at one point with sorority girls dancing to music you'd find on TWERK Radio on Pandora.

Normally, this is a sight I'd roll my eyes at and think, "Wow... Those people look ridiculous." But in the moment, I realized how much fun it is to be that girl: to be confident – or drunk – enough to do whatever I wanted on stage because no one's watching me.

The end of my night is sadly a blur. I remember waking up to videos of drunk girls singing "Unwritten" in the bathroom and stories of how I fell in the parking lot of The Press Box and my driveway.

At least I didn't go home with anyone this time.

While usually I'd spend my Tuesday nights catching up on my latest Netflix show or studying for some ridiculously-hard exam, I got to have a night to partially remember with some of my best friends.

Be ready for the next adventure.

XOXO.

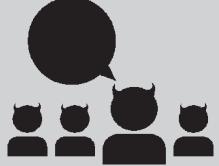
party girl



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SATIRE

President Trump celebrates the reason for the season

NOV.29, 2017

ULS Board to discuss new bookstore, dining option

ALEC HORTON Fditor-in-Chief

University of **■** Louisiana System Board of Supervisors have one topic on their agenda to potentially excite the Northwestern State community: The university is requesting approval to lease space in the Friedman Student Union to the NSU Foundation so it can operate the official campus bookstore.

If approved, the Foundation plans to acquire two properties from Watson across Library for renovating a new Campus Marketplace, 10,500-square-foot building offering expanded bookstore and convenience food vendor.

Total funding for project is \$1.9 the million, which includes construction, design,

equipment contingency funding.

"The University will not incur any debt as a result of this project," according to the executive summary of Item H.3 on the board's agenda.

facilities will These be leased through the Foundation with an outside vendor and are expected to be operating by fall 2018.

Pending Friday's decision, the new lease agreement between NSU and the NSU Foundation will take effect Dec. 1 and expire Dec. 31, 2027, with the option to renew.

NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio is not directly involved in negotiations, but he explained that the university would lease the new space from the NSU Foundation.

Though contractors have not yet been selected, students have been asking for a Chick-Fil-A since it

was replaced in 2009 by the Grill.

"Nine out of [students] said they wanted a Chick-Fil-A, so that's what we're shooting for," Maggio laughed.

The university's current bookstore provider is Barnes & Noble, whose contract expires June 2018. NSU is now considering options with other contractors.

One leasing condition between NSU and the Foundation will be that the university will receive sales commissions from both the new bookstore and food vendor. It is unclear at this time what percentage of sales will go to the university.

The Board of Supervisors' is holding its meeting Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. This is open to the public, and the full agenda is available on the system's website.

NSU to hire new administrator

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

NSU's Title IX coordinator and student advocate works to give a voice to students and advocate for their safety and right to an equal work and school environment.

Included in every class syllabus is the Title IX statement of the Education Amendments of 1972. This is one of the many tasks controlled by Title IX coordinator the and student advocate. This person is responsible for all issues on campus regarding sexual misconduct including investigation, notification and recording of these issues.

Recently, former Title IX Coordinator Lori LeBlanc resigned. While NSU searches for a replacement, Dean of Students Frances Conine has adopted the role temporarily.

Under Conine's supervision, has appointed committee to choose a new Title IX coordinator and hopes to make a decision by the end of this week.

"I hope we can continue the good work done by Lori LeBlanc and the many other

people on our campus to end sexual misconduct and advocate for our students to get the help and resources needed to be successful in college," Conine said. "I also hope we can continue to change the culture around consent and increase reporting.'

Whoever is hired will report to the Director of Student Conduct and Accountability, which Conine says will allow NSU to better advocate for victims

"We've made great strides here at NSU," she said. "We have trained on the brain science around trauma and how it affects victims. We completed campus climate surveys and appointed confidential advisors. have conducted bystander intervention training changed our student code to comply with state and federal

"I think we've done a lot of good work, empowered victims and protected our students," Conine said. "However, we have to stay vigilant. Our work is not done as long as there are students who continue to be victimized by others."

Police Blotter

November 13

Theft 1235 hours Kyser Hall

Disturbance 1925 hours Fieldhouse

Parties separated

November 15

Drug Law Violation 1002 hours Demon Drive Summons issued

Disturbance 1525 hours **University Columns**

November 17

Property Damage 1632 hours Watson Library

November 26

Burglary 2202 hours University Place II

Kappa Alpha investigated for hazing

ZOE ALMARAZ Reporter

NSU's Kappa Alpha chapter was recently investigated for an incident of hazing during one of their meetings. During this investigation, the fraternity was placed under a suspension of activities, meaning they were not allowed to tailgate or host parties.

According to Director of Greek Life Shayne Creppel, there were rumors that an incident had taken place, but no students had come forward at that time. The fraternity's activities were suspended in order to investigate because there were no details and a lack of complaints.

"What we were able to find out is that yes, these things at this particular meeting took place in order to just make people physically uncomfortable, but at that same time, one person went too far with another person,"



Kappa Alpha's house on Second Street

Creppel said.

Unable to release specific details and names, the incident boils down to an individual making another individual physically uncomfortable. The chapter itself was disciplined for allowing the individual to make a pledge physically uncomfortable and lying about the event taking place.

Creppel went on to say

the national chapter issued sanctions, and the university

itself added similar ones. "Those [sanctions] included a review of the members. So chapter officers were replaced, the pledge board was replaced, and certain individuals were removed from the chapter," he said.

Dean of Students and interim Vice President for the Student Experience Frances Conine also commented on the situation.

"They have new leadership, and they did a complete review of... every man in that chapter," Conine said.

This change in personnel is hoped to lead the fraternity to being more aware of their pledges' comfort and their own actions when dealing with potential members. The recent hazing incidents across the nation creates a focus on Greek Life and their interactions.

Creppel summed up the incident with the following words:

"There was an allegation of hazing, but it did not rise to the level of anything that would cause the closure of a chapter."

Hazing is not allowed Northwestern University's campus and should be reported to the Office of Greek Life and University Police.

NOV. 29, 2017 NEWS 3

Administrators trying to address housing issues

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Managing Editor

Residents of Varnado Hall are still unhappy with the living conditions in their dormitory. One student took it upon herself to open the dialog between students, faculty and staff of the hall by creating a petition outlining residents' grievances.

Julia Falgout, a freshmen psychology major, started the "Petition to reopen the ballroom and to drop the rules that have gone too far" with the help of her parents. It outlines promises from staff that have not been completed and issues with the dorms students have experienced.

The petition stated Varnado still lacked sound-proof practice rooms on each floor, an art room, piano and dance studio.

According to Falgout, these amenities feature broken easels, an out-of-order grand piano in the ballroom and a statement that dancers are not allowed to practice in the dorms.

As for the practice rooms, Assistant Director of Housing Jim George said the following on Nov. 13: "The rooms are open for use, but the door and ceiling still need to be sound-proofed."

George is also a resident of Varnado and agrees that he can hear people practicing from his room, noise that can create a problem for studying or sleeping students.

Since the Sept. 27 release of the Current Sauce's last article on Varnado, two new rules have been implemented that the petition is arguing against.

On Oct. 17, residents were informed the ballroom would be closed nightly from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m. and that they were no longer allowed to bring blankets into the area.

Falgout explained these become issues for students who want to study late with friends of the opposite gender or who want to study after their roommate has gone to sleep.

"The petition [won't] help since most of the problems are above Varnado," George said upon becoming aware of it

In response to the petition, Varnado staff decided to hold meetings for residents to state their grievances.

A "brown paper bag" event was held in the ballroom on Nov. 8, of which only five residents attended. On Nov. 13, a "PB&J and PJs" event was held, and approximately eight residents attended.

Residents at the events were asked what they would like to see happen in their dorm.

One student asked if it was possible to have an event



A practice room in Varnado Hall

Photo by Justin Burr

to just talk about the various concentrations for Creative and Performing Arts students. Another asked if a sign-up sheet could be added outside of practice rooms, like the ones outside of CAPA practice rooms.

Faculty and staff associated with Varnado Hall are attempting to make the dorm more accessible to residents, but state that only a limited number of complaints have come forward.

Stephanie Dyjack, director of Housing and Resident Life on Campus, was unaware of the petition's existance but would like to speak to students personally about issues experienced.

"I have only had one resident schedule an appointment to discuss her concerns with me regarding Varnado Hall," she said. "I encourage residents that have concerns to always seek me out as the CLV/Housing representative here on campus."

Dyjack and Greg Handel, the director of CAPA, said issues that have arisen are being dealt with.

"We have had several conference calls, and CLV Administrators are giving all parties involved weekly, and sometimes daily, updates," Handel said.

"We continue to work on a few issues, but the impact of those issues on the residents is minimal at this point," Dyjack said. "The promise from CLV in regards to the amenities ... [will] be completed during the fall semester."

The visitation policy is also under review by the university.

Students in Varnado Hall should see a completion of their promised amenities for the start of the spring 2018 semester and are encouraged to communicate dormitory issues with staff.

Stephanie Dyjack can be reached for appointments by email at stephanie.dyjack@clvusa.com or by phone at 318-214-5400.

OPINION: 'Varnadon't'

ANONYMOUS STUDENT SUBMISSION

It's the day after band camp, and you are just now allowed to move into your new dorm. You unpack, settle in and decide to shower. You grab your robe and your new shower caddy, find the communal bathroom, undress, turn on the water and... A few cold drops come out. There is no water pressure. A few more days go by, and you still can't shower.

This was the warm welcome given to Varnado Hall residents in August.

A week later, there is no hot water. That continued for another week or so while residents were told to shower at the WRAC. Sinks weren't draining and started backing up with sewage, even flooding a few rooms. Work orders took two months to be completed.

Dorms are so humid that your new salt rock lamp is dripping, and your bedsheets are sticking together. You can't have your dad or male friend visit your dorm because you live in the women's wing. Even after they lift this rule, you feel as if you are on lock down and every move is recorded. This is not what you were expecting your new home to feel like.

At least you have all of the awesome creative spaces, like the art studio and rehearsal rooms, right?

These promised amenities are nowhere in sight. The "art studio" has two broken easels (that's really it!) but is far too humid for any paint to dry. It is an empty basement. The rehearsal rooms were locked because they hadn't been sound proofed yet. There is no recording studio; only empty promises and disappointed residents.

In a meeting with university housing, I was told all of these things were in the works. "Be patient, they are coming." The question is, why are they not already here?

People are starting petitions. Parents are calling. Residents are obviously unhappy and even moving out. The luxury Creative and Performing Arts residential college is simply a haphazardly-renovated, traditional dormitory.

Varnado? More like VarnaDON'T.



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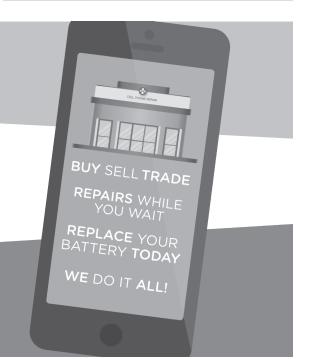
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WE FIX IT ALL!











with a brand new humorous skit to be performed between acts. As the performers scramble to prepare for Gala, the season's spirit shines through them.

"Gala really does the trick of getting me in the Christmas spirit," Wynn said.

Though rehearsals can be time consuming, Carline loves seeing

NSU's School of Creative and Performing Arts exhibits the wide variety of talent that students possess. Many types of performances will be showcased with hundreds of students and faculty on stage

Aside from the talented stage performers, backstage help cannot be forgotten. Those who work behind the scenes have put countless hours into the show to make sure the performers look great. Whether it be props, costumes or sound, NSU students with

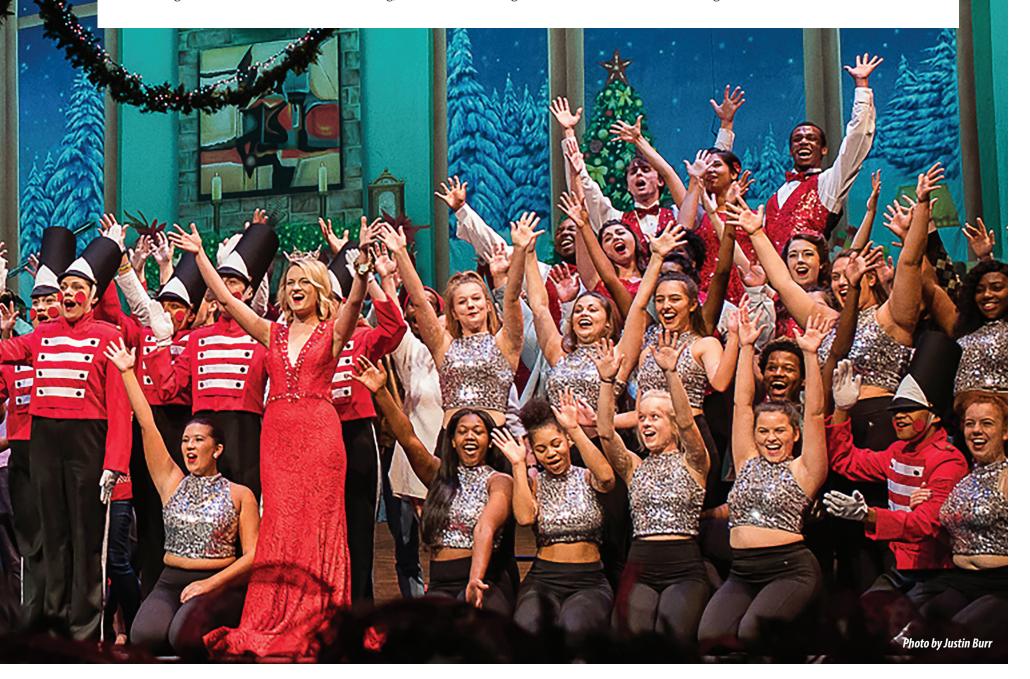
All of the acts are perfecting last-minute details, and overall staging and sound are being perfected. Directors of all the different groups are making small changes to ensure the performance is the

The atmosphere of the rehearsals is very positive and exciting,

than last year. Both are excited about Demon Heat's involvement

Gala runs Nov. 29 thru Dec. 1 with performances at 7 p.m every night and an additional performance at 9 p.m. on Dec 1. There will also be one performance in Shreveport at the Strand Theatre Dec. 10 at 4 p.m.

For information about tickets and times, visit the CAPA website, or call the CAPA office at 318-357-4522. Students can stop by the office with their student ID to get a free ticket to one of the shows.



6 SPORTS NOV. 29, 2017

Basketball continues over break

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

While most students have a break at the end of November for Thanksgiving, there are those who continue to work hard despite campus closures. Both the men and women's basketball teams played games throughout the week-long break, playing at home and traveling to other states.

As students and faculty left campus Nov. 17, the men's team prepared for their home game against Rice University. Though they lost to the Owls 65-87, the Demons continued on for their Nov. 21 game against University of Louisiana Monroe, winning 76-61.

After a short break Thanksgiving day, the men visited Fort Collins, Colorado and lost to Colorado State 60-72, making their overall game record 1-5.

Head Coach Mike McConathy commented on the loss against Colorado State stating there is always room for improvement and to take away lessons from all games, especially losses.

"We did fight hard. We've got to get better, cleaner shots, and also, hold on to rebounds and loose balls better," he said. "We had our hands on it so many times and the more aggressive team came away with possession."

The women also faced opponents over the break, though they had a few more days of preparation.

The Lady Demons were defeated 44-78 by the Oklahoma State Cowboys in Stillwater, Oklahoma Nov. 19, but won at home 85-55 against LSU Alexandria Nov. 22. This brought their game record to 3-2.

Junior forward Libba Gilliam scored 14 points against LSUA. She contributed their success to several factors including the cohesiveness of the team.

"I think we read our offense well," she said. "We got inside a lot, and Leah [Barnes] was able to hit me outside and [I was able to] make the shots.""

"We created a lot of turnovers and got some fast-break points," Head Coach Jordan Dupuy said.

He also explained that they scheduled games purposely so they were not near the holiday.

"We [had] a six day layoff in between games so we could actually give the girls a chance to get home during Thanksgiving, which is something that in all my years of coaching we've never been able to do," he said.

With the win over LSUA, Dupuy continues to look for improvement from the team, just as McConathy spoke about with the men's team.

"I think we have to be real with ourselves," the second-year head coach said. "We were good in a lot of areas, and we have to get better in some other areas [to] compete with teams in our conference and teams like Southern Mississippi."

The men's team will face Lyon College Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in Prather Coliseum, and the Lady Demons will travel to ULM Dec. 3 for their next game.



The Demons gather in front of their trophy for winning the rivalry game.

Photo by Stuart Brigh

Chief Caddo comes home

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Reporter

Standing tall in the end zone of Harry S. Turpin Stadium, the largest trophy in college football looms over two purple-clad teams vying to win the 7 feet 5 inches, 330-pound Native American trophy.

Chief Caddo has taken trips between Natchitoches, Louisiana and Nacogdoches, Texas ever since Northwestern State and Stephen F. Austin decided in the early '60s to award a trophy to the winner of the rivalry game.

During the last football game of the season, the Demons were able to not just lift the 330-pound trophy but send 17 seniors and Head Coach Jay Thomas off with one more win.

"We want our seniors to go out like they did tonight. It's special for them," said assistant head coach and Defensive Coordinator Brad Laird, who was recently named head coach. "They'll always remember it, especially the last one. So many of those who had ups and downs throughout the season made plays tonight to win the football game."

To senior wide receiver Cameron Lazare, winning Chief Caddo means more than other wins.

"It's bigger than just this season. It's about next season, for the juniors, sophomores and freshmen to build off of something," he said. "Chief Caddo is home, and this is where he belongs."

Senior running back Chris Jones said dashing to the trophy was one of his best sprints of the night.

"I had a lot of energy come out of nowhere, and I was like 'Let me go get Chief Caddo real quick,'" he said. "But when I tried to pick him up I was like 'Whoa, this thing is kinda heavy,' [and] I had to let the big boys come get him."

For Laird, the trophy is more than a win for the team; it's a win for the community.

"It's not just [a win for] Northwestern State football. It's about the university, and it's about the community of Natchitoches as well," he said.

Bringing Chief Caddo back home was the icing on a hard-fought season for the Demons who went 4-7 overall and 4-5 in conference play.

"In the course of a football season, there's going to be adversity and ups and downs," Laird said. "[It's] no different for this season."

Lazare and Jones agreed with the future NSU head coach about the season being a roller coaster of sorts.

"We [did have] our ups and downs," Lazare said. "But we stayed

close [as a team]. We never bickered among each other; we just kept fighting."

"The season didn't go as planned starting off at Louisiana Tech," Jones said. "We had some close ones, but the ball did not bounce our way."

Throughout their years as Demons, Jones and Lazare have created memories and learned more about themselves.

"[NSU] means a lot. Not just football, but the people you meet when you come here," Jones said. "I have [friends] who graduated from NSU that I still talk to. We're really close and take care of each other on and off the field."

"It's been great. I grew as a person," Lazare said. [My coaches] had an impact on me and Natchitoches is a homely place. It's a great place to be.

"I'm leaving with, first and foremost, memories. You only live college once, [and] these four years I would not trade it for anything. Everything I've been through with my brothers, I will never forget."

This season home win closes the play book for a handful of players and staff, but a new door opens as Laird takes command of the head coach position and opens a new playbook for those to come.

NOV. 29, 2017 ARTS&LIVING 7

Five tips for coping with holiday stress

ALEC HORTON *Editor-in-Grief*

As I wake from my Thanksgiving nap, I feel a slight twinge of annoyance toward my family and realize finals are quickly approaching. After that comes the real test of a college student's sanity: winter break spent in constant presence of family.

If one more relative asks about my relationship status, I swear I'm going to respond with, "I don't know, Grandma, how's your marriage going?"

All salt aside, I love my family... Kind of. At the very least, I'm grateful to have friends whose families put mine into perspective; my family isn't unapologetically racist and homophobic to my knowledge. I send my condolences to everyone who can't say the same.

For anyone struggling to cope with spending winter break at home, I offer

these five tips to give you temporary relief from even the most overbearing, inconsiderate, or just plain stupid family member.

1. Go on a friendcation.

Grab your favorite friend from back home, and go wherever the heart desires. I recommend not using a friendcation with a fellow NSU student as an excuse to leave town because parents are likely to respond with, "You see them all the time!"

Old friends are probably in the same boat as you and make a better case to leave town with. Even if you don't particularly want to go with them, they are likely to be more pleasant company due to their shared desire to get away from family.

2. Sleep all day. Or fake it.

You don't live with your parents anymore, so who are they to question

your sleeping habits? We all know college does a number on the body's clock.

Use that as an excuse to lay in bed for days binging "Gilmore Girls" and its revamp; everyone could use a good cry on occasion, and only the most bitter crows complete that series tear-free.

3. Get sick. Or fake it.

Honey, there ain't no shame in faking diarrhea to skip the family reunion. Liquid feces may be the only surefire way to get yourself uninvited from the party.

Nobody likes a messy bottom, especially in their house. Oh, you do? Try finding a new hobby – one that doesn't involve the potential spread of hepatitis A. I suggest knitting.

4. Play mind games at the family reunion.

This one is a personal favorite of mine. We all have that one relative who

thinks he can get away with being an asshat forever because it's "charming" when he does it.

Well, not anymore! Passive aggressive comments are great for dragging the culprit's self-esteem to its rightful place: a Long John Silver's dumpster fire.

5. Call them out!

Passive aggressive comments not working? Sorry to break it to you, but it's time to turn the heat up. A good argument where you attack a family member's morals or other values is sure to get you banned from future family reunions because you "can't be tamed."

Score! Now you've got what you wanted all along: some damn peace and quiet on your much-needed break.

But maybe that's just me being petty. Anyway, I hope this helps!



The Eyes of Argus

Confessions of a Romantic

LESLIE GREGORY

Argus 1981

I was born to wear flowers 'round my head and dance about a village square I was born to sing songs of mirth and panegyrize the morning sun I was born to dream away this piteous world and set free those vexed by reality I was born to guide unicorns to the softness of poppy fields and hear the melodious tunes of the Muse I was born to spin new visions in the understandings of the mercurial ones and mingle through crowds of fanciful poets I was born to be a caster away of cynicism and heal wounds through fable

Submit your writing, fine art or photography to https://argusnsu.submittable.com/submit by Dec. 1 for a chance to be published in the 2018 edition of Argus.

I was born to

be loved and

give love to all the earth and heavens

Review: PlatinumGames' 'NieR: Automata'



ANTHONY RENTERIA

Opinion Columnist

I played a lot of video games this year; the most I have ever done in my entire life. I decided to keep up with new releases, and played whatever I could get my hands on if I was interested in it.

Earlier this year, there was one title I decided to skip out on due to income reasons. I finally got around to playing it, and I can confirm that it is my personal game of the year. That game is "NieR: Automata."

"NieR: Automata" is an action RPG made in collaboration with infamous director Yoko Taro, known for the "Drakenguard" series, and developer PlatinumGames, who have made such titles as "Bayonetta," "Metal Gear Rising" and "Vanquish." This collaboration worked like a charm, because what was created resulted in both Taro's highest quality game, and PlatinumGames' best title in a very long time.

To start off with, the story of the game is unique in the ways that Yoko Taro writes. Fans of his previous works like Drakenguard and the original NieR will feel right at home with "Automata." However, newcomers alike can enjoy the game as their first title in Taro's insane world.

While in this postapocalyptic world, you play as androids in a war against machines for humanity's freedom. The game itself ask the question of "What does it mean to be human?"

The characters in the story face many challenges presented by the everchanging world around them. The voice actors breathe life into the characters and gave fantastic performances for every character.

It's a game that really stuck with me and made me very emotional at times.

That's how I feel about other games from Taro, but I also recommend "Automata" to newcomers not only for its story, but for the gameplay.

While previous games from Yoko Taro had deep and compelling stories, the gameplay in these titles can either be passable or a complete dumpster fire running at five frames per second. "NieR: Automata" is none of these and has the fun action gameplay PlatinumGames is known for with slight RPG elements.

The combat feels fast and fluid and there are a lot of ways to customize how the game works. Not only do you get items and weapons, but also chips you equip that boost your stats, grant special moves or add HUD enhancements.

Exploring the world of "Automata" involves a lot of investigating, but it is easy to navigate. Each area is distinct, and it is always clear where you need to go for your next objective and lets you proceed at your own pace.

Visit nsulastudentmedia.com for the full review.



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NP-W

KEATOR POLEMAN

Opinion Columnist

My fellow Americans,

It is a great honor to be celebrating my first Christmas as your president. It is at this time that we all come together and celebrate the true meaning of the season: getting presents. I would like to share with you the gifts I have both received and hope to receive this year. There have never been such great gifts in the history of gifts; they're yuge! I may have

to send some of these back. We'll have to wait and see... sad. On behalf of the First Family, here is The Twelve Days of Trump-mas.

On the first day of Christmas, Santa gave to me

A great wall made for free.

On the second day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the third day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the fourth day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two Dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the fifth day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the sixth day of Six tweets a minute

Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the seventh day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Seven links with Russia Six tweets a minute Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

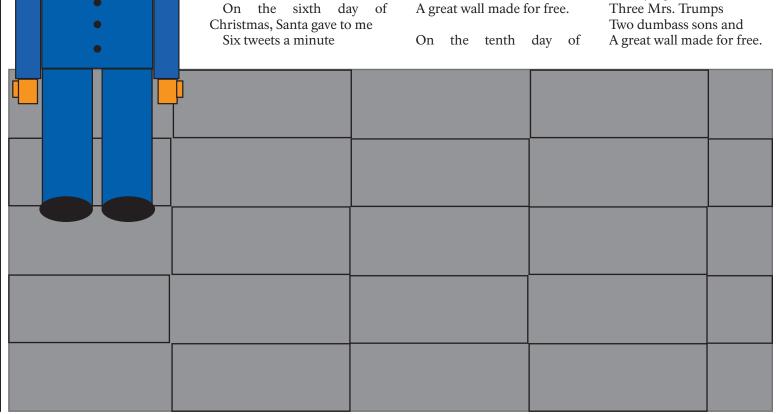
On the eighth day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Eight divisive comments Seven links with Russia Six tweets a minute Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the ninth day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Nine offended countries Eight divisive comments Seven links with Russia Six tweets a minute Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and

Christmas, Santa gave to me Ten lawyers present Nine offended countries Eight divisive comments Seven links with Russia Six tweets a minute Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, Santa gave to me Eleven months of mayhem Ten lawyers present Nine offended countries Eight divisive comments Seven links with Russia Six tweets a minute Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and A great wall made for free.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, Santa gave to me A twelve white male Cabinet Eleven months of mayhem Ten lawyers present Nine offended countries Eight divisive comments Seven links with Russia Six tweets a minute Five lawsuits pending Four lying staffers Three Mrs. Trumps Two dumbass sons and







THERE'S SNOW PLACE LIKE NSU

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Theft 1921 hours University Place II

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Damage to Property 1427 hours University Columns

Complaint 1835 hours Caddo Hall

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Verbal Assault 1722 hours University Columns

January 19

Drug Law Violation 0048 hours University Place

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Drug Law Violation 1327 hours University Place II Arrest made

Identity Theft 1555 hours NSU Police Department

January 21

Disturbance 0213 hours University Columns



NSU's Alumni Center covered in last week's snow

Photo by Chris Reich/NSU Photographic Services

Weather causes closures statewide

ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

Below-freezing temperatures, snow and ice caused a two-day delayed start for all Northwestern State University campuses last week, as well as cancellations for many other schools and government offices in Louisiana.

Though Natchitoches' roads were not severely affected by ice to prevent local commuters from traveling, many roads across

the state were closed, and some flights were delayed or canceled.

Senior Meg Denny faced multiple obstacles while traveling to New Orleans' airport to pick up fellow students, some of whom experienced flight delays. Altogether, Denny spent 20 hours driving between last Tuesday and Thursday when it normally would have taken eight.

"We couldn't go more than 5 mph without fishtailing," she said of a road completely frozen over. "I kept thinking we were going to spin out."

The students made it back to Natchitoches after enduring the hazardous conditions Thursday evening, missing the first day of classes. As if that wasn't enough, Denny returned home to a broken water heater.

And she wasn't the only one who couldn't comfortably shower last week. Water in University Place II was shut off for a couple hours Thursday to repair a leak.

Later that evening, a fire sprinkler burst, causing a brief building evacuation so the city fire department could resolve the issue.

Furthermore, a gas line that powered water heaters to the dorm was damaged during the freeze, and UP II residents were without hot water until early Friday afternoon.

If campus residents are still experiencing issues in their building, call 318-214-5400 or submit a maintenance request online.



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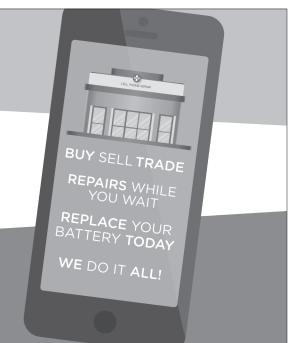
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JAN. 24, 2018 NEWS 3

Burke: Stadium was 'never' open to public

EMMA BURLET
Reporter

With the intent to use the stairs inside Turpin Stadium for her routine exercise one day, senior Katy Bordelon was surprised to find the gates were locked. She then posted on the Student Concerns Facebook group wondering if the stadium was truly not open to students and why.

"Athletic facilities, except for the tennis complex, are not available for recreational use," responded Greg Burke, director of athletics. This shocked several students who have used the stadium without issues in the past.

"The main reason for this policy revolves around avoiding liability and safety issues that could take place at a time when nobody is present to provide assistance," Burke said, noting that recreational use of athletic facilities has "never been permitted," and that paying tuition or taxes does not necessarily grant access to public facilities.

While Bordelon understood Burke's concerns, she was ruffled since there was no notice given about the policy enforcement, which she felt not only showed no transparency but a lack of respect for students who enjoyed using the location.

"We have cops that could



Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa

A sign attached to a gate of Turpin Stadium makes an apparent long-standing policy clear. A student inquiry on the Student Concerns Facebook group gave Director of Athletics the opportunity to inform students of this policy.

be put out during certain hours so students can have access," she said, also suggesting security cameras as an option to avoid limiting public use of the stadium.

In the past, Burke has seen unauthorized use of the field and has asked people to leave on those occasions.

"Through the years, there have been instances when the use of athletic facilities for recreational purposes by students or the public resulted in damages or, at a minimum, excessive wear and tear," he said. Burke did not specify if there was a specific instance that

Athletic facilities... are not available for recreational use.

- Greg Burke

prompted the change in rule enforcement.

Junior Logan Turner also chimed in on the issue, annoyed by "NSU's lack of transparency and communication."

"We need transparency in our school's leadership, and I honestly do not see that," he said. "It makes me really frustrated as a student and a lover of this institution."

Assistant Professor Dr. Allison Rittmayer responded to the forum listing examples of college stadiums that remain open to the public and suggesting a group exercise class that meets in the stadium as one way to provide controlled access.

"I think there are ways to have stadiums open to the public or at select times that cover any liability NSU could incur that we could look into," she said.

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SGA Minutes: Upcoming leadership opportunities, projects

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

President Tre Nelson welcomed SGA members to the new year and a busy semester for the student government organization. He and other senators emphasized their upcoming events such as Leadership NSU throughout the meeting.

Nelson recounted the brief history of the leadership conference, now in its third year, and how much the event has grown since its conception.

"It's pretty cool seeing how far this has come because when we initially did it, there wasn't a whole lot of participation from SGA... but we've made leaps and bounds from last year," Nelson said.

"We honestly wouldn't be where we are without how much work people put into it last year, and I think it speaks to how organized of an organization we are."

Leadership NSU will officially begin at noon on Friday and continue through the weekend. SAB will host a headphone disco and glowcade Friday night.

The president himself said he will not be able to attend Leadership NSU; he will travel to Washington, D.C., with the Council of Student Body Presidents to lobby on behalf of students in Louisiana.

Nelson said he was concerned about the trip due to the recent government shutdown and urged SGA senators to pay attention to politics.

"Make sure you're keeping yourself politically informed," Nelson said. "[As] SGA members, certain things that the government does directly affects us and what we are capable of doing or not doing."

"People look to us for political advice in a time where, I think, college students primarily want to focus on social issues [but also] fiscal and monetary issues."

Nelson continued with his report, discussing other leadership opportunities for SGA, including the American Student Government Association's New Orleans Student Government Training Conference on Feb. 10, which several senators will attend.

Another initiative beginning this semester is the restoration of trees on the Natchitoches campus. Nelson met with a team of arborists from the National Historic Society and ecologist Dr. Margaret Cochran of the Louisiana Scholars' College to determine where and which type of trees can be replanted.

This initiative follows the loss of several historic trees over the past year.

SGA meetings are held every Monday at 6 p.m. in Room 320 of the Friedman Student Union. Follow @ thecurrentsauce on Twitter for live coverage of weekly meetings and updates on all things SGA.

4 NEWS JAN. 24, 2018

New banking partner, regulations call for new ID cards

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

Lines at the OneCard student ID office stretched out the door at the start of the weatherdelayed spring semester. Student employees worked nonstop replace ID cards quickly, as a change in banking partners called for a logo change, and signatures must be printed on the card to comply with new state regulations.

Students will notice a design change on their new IDs with NSU's flaming pitchfork logo. They should also see a new bank emblem: Bank of Montgomery. After MidSouth Bank canceled its contract with NSU, Montgomery was the successful bidder for the new contract, according to Jennifer Kelly, assistant to the provost.

What they shouldn't notice is any change in ID functionality. Cards can still be swiped for meal plan use, book vouchers, WRAC entrance, athletic events and any other purposes for which they were used before.

There is no cost to obtain a new ID if students bring their old ones to the OneCard office on the Student Services Center third floor. If you have lost your card, \$20 will buy a new one.

At this time, the old cards should still work, but students should anticipate a cutoff date toward the end of February, Kelly said. Updates will be sent via Student Messenger, as will reminders to replace old ID cards.



Newly officiated Demon Battalion Commander Taylor Andrews overlooks cadets.

Photo by Sean McGraw

Demon Battalion instates new commander

ZOE ALMARAZReporter

2018 marks the 68th Demon Battalion at Northwestern State University, and in a ceremony on Jan. 18, the Battalion welcomed Cadet Lt. Col. Taylor Andrews as its new commander.

The ceremony opened with recognition for past Army members who attended, as well as current faculty and staff before leading into honoring the United States. The honor portion consisted of the battalion presenting arms while an instrumental version of the national anthem played. Members of the audience also presented arms or put their hands over their hearts.

Andrews stood facing

the battalion in the front of the ballroom, along with outgoing commander Cadet Michael Kingsley and Lt. Col. Katherine Carlson, a professor of military science. After honors, there was an invocation where the battalion and audience were led in prayer.

Then the three stood in front of the battalion to complete the rite of passage. This was a simple ceremony and consisted of passing the guidon, a flag that signifies the unit designation and corps affiliation. The guidon bearer passed the flag to Kingsley, down to Carlson and finally to Andrews. He then passed it to the Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Marzahl.

Cadet Savannah Carter said

the following: "The guidon represents not only the lineage and honors of the unit, but also the loyalty and unity of the cadets. The guidon is the commander's symbol of authority, representing his responsibilities to the organization."

She then listed the responsibilities Andrews and Marzahl are expected to uphold. This includes leading and mentoring all cadets, "imposing sound feedback to the cadre" and showing compassion for all.

Carlson, Kingsley and Andrews closed with some remarks.

Carlson emphasized the battalion chose its leaders. The commander and command sergeant major were chosen by a panel of cadets, showing how important unity and trust is among the battalion members.

Themes of leadership were prevalent in Kingsley and Andrews' speeches as well.

Kingsley directed his speech toward the seniors, asking them to help bring about positive changes they want to see in the future.

Andrews addressed the community and the staff to thank them for their support. He also outlined his idea for an integrated battalion staff that would allow cadets to collaborate and work together.

Finally, the ceremony closed with the audience joining the battalion in singing the Army's official song to show their support.

SGA brings host of guest speakers for third annual conference

KEATOR POLEMAN

Reporter

For the third year, Northwestern State University students will be able to participate in Leadership NSU. The conference is being sponsored by the Student Government Association and will be held Jan. 26-28.

SGA Senator Jacob Ellis is expecting 400-500 students to register for the conference. Under the slogan "From Apathy to Action," Leadership

NSU will provide students with a wide range of speakers who will cover topics including hazing, sexual assault and how to run meetings.

"I hope students will come away from the conference wanting to make a difference on campus," Ellis said.

Speakers include Sebastian Terry, Dr. Gentry McCreary, Kim Novak and Rasheed Cromwell. Students familiar with Leadership NSU may recognize some speakers from past conferences. "Our guest speakers will deliver training, workshops and presentations on topics such as service, emerging leadership, running better meetings, relationships, recruitment, brotherhood and sisterhood, communication and much more," the conference homepage says.

Another featured speaker will be Melissa Ruiz from Swift Kick, an organization that strives for "turning apathy into action." Jessica Gendron Williams, a representative from Phired Up, will discuss hazing issues in Greek organizations.

Another speaker, Bonny Shade, is a sexual assault survivor who speaks at colleges about her experience and invites audience members to "discuss the uncomfortable and equip [them] with realistic intervention strategies."

To attend the conference, students should sign into OrgSync and fill out the online registration form. Attendance is free to all NSU students.

JAN. 24, 2018 FEATURE 5

NSU Cheerleading competes at Disney

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA
Reporter

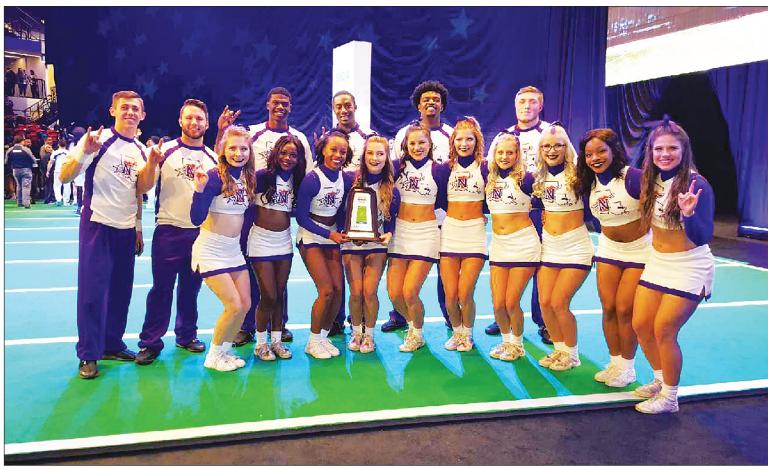
Northwestern State University Cheerleading recently returned to Louisiana after performing in the National College Cheerleading and Team National Dance Championship at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. At the Jan. 12-14 competition, NSU ranked seventh in the Cheer Game Day competition and fifth in the mascot competition, both in the Open category.

Each member was required to raise \$1000 for the trip to Disney, which included a four-day Park Hopper for all parks, a three-night stay at a Disney resort, entrance into the ESPN Wide World of Sports and registration into the competitions and exclusive events.

The team held ticket raffles and stunt clinics to raise money, as well as received donations from family and friends.

Destiny Kennerson, a first-year member, was excited that the squad could go to Disney and show off their skills.

"NSU hasn't been to UCA nationals in about three to four years," she said. "So [NSU] getting to go again



NSU Cheerleading traveled to Orlando, Florida, earlier this month to compete against other collegiate teams.

Photo submitted by Destiny Kennerson

really was exciting. We were ready to show the world who NSU cheer was."

Baleigh Danger, a sophomore pre-vet major, shared Kennerson's desire to compete.

"Our spirit groups at NSU don't get enough recognition," Danger said. "It was nice to be able to put our name out there and say that we are a nationally

recognized cheer squad."

Though the competition was the reason for the trip, it wasn't all work for the team. When not practicing or performing, they were free to explore the Walt Disney World parks – Danger's favorite part of the trip.

"We aren't just a team; we're family," she said.

The team met at Rainforest Cafe daily for dinner and had the opportunity to visit every park during their time there.

"My favorite part of competing had to be stepping foot on the floor and just feeling that adrenaline rush through [me]," Tre Jackson said of the experience. "Then finding out your team is nationally ranked is an even greater feeling."

NSU Cheerleading

can be seen tonight in Prather Coliseum when NSU Basketball plays the University of New Orleans at 6:30 p.m.

Tryouts for the fall 2018 squad will occur April 21-22, but interested students can attend an open practice Jan. 26 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, follow the team's Instagram:

@nsulacheer

Intramural flag football team represents NSU at national championships

ANTHONY RENTERIA *Reporter*

Northwestern State University's intramural flag football team won a regional title in December and earlier this month competed at the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association championships at the University of West Florida.

It was a long season for the team, but they have many reasons to be proud.

At December's NIRSA Regional Flag Football Tournament at the University of Southern Mississippi, they defeated Stephen F. Austin State University, University of West Florida and Louisiana Tech to win the championship.

Male and female MVPs were Cody Wager and Savonya Robinson, respectively. The two MVPs along with McKinley Greenhouse and Meghan Knight were named to the All-Regional team.

Other NSU team members include Jeremy Aaron, Asante Belton, Naterria Davis, Kelsey Gallman, Amber Griffin, Adia Keys, Da'Maryon Lee, Louis Mayweather, Chatoria Pace, Byron Stevens, Destany Washington, Paige West and Tracy Wilridge.

Prior to forming a CoRec team to compete at regionals, the women's team won the state championship. This CoRec team consists of an equal number of men and women on the team. The roster can have a maximum of 16 players, with eight on the field at a time.

Scheduling issues, lack of funding and last year's second-place finish are a few factors that prevented the team from continuing past regional championships in the past. This year, however, the team claimed the region title and advanced to nationals.

Competing in Pensacola, Florida, NSU beat University of Central Florida 35-20 but lost to Mississippi State later that day.

Jason Stelly, associate director of intramural sports, describes the whole program as "exciting!" NSU's program is strong because the students are involved and represent the

university with passion and good sportsmanship.

The flag football team is part of the Intramural program provided by the WRAC, which provides leagues of sports for students to participate in beyond the classroom. Other sports include basketball, volleyball and softball.

This semester, basketball sign-ups end Jan. 25, with games beginning Jan. 29. Softball sign-ups end March 1, and games begin March 12. More information about intramural sports is available at wrac.nsula.edu

6 SPORTS

Football names new defense coach



DOUG IRELAND NSU Sports Information Director

All-Southland ormer Conference defensive end LeDell Love has been named defensive line coach at his alma mater, Northwestern State University, said football Head Coach Brad Laird on Friday.

Love was a three-year starter for the Demons as he won four letters from 2007-10 while Laird was defensive coordinator for NSU. He has five years of coaching experience, the first two in 2013-14 as a graduate assistant on the Demons' defensive staff, and for the last three seasons, as defensive line coach at North Carolina-Pembroke.

His stint at UNCP was highlighted by a 10-2 season in 2016 when the Braves piled

up 35 quarterback sacks and came up with 30 turnovers. In Love's three years as defensive line coach, UNCP collected 92 sacks while posting two winning seasons.

In Love's most recent season at NSU, the 2014 Demons' Purple Swarm defense ranked among the nation's best in turnovers forced (5th in FCS, with 30), turnover margin (11th, plus 0.83), and interceptions (20th, 15). Five defensive linemen won All-Southland recognition in Love's two seasons as a graduate assistant coach.

The 2013 Demons were second in the Southland in total defense and sacks. One of Love's players, JeMarcus Marshall, won Freshman All-America honors.

Love collected 132 career tackles, 80 solo, with 21 ½ tackles for loss and six sacks, along with 14 quarterback hurries, seven forced fumbles and four pass breakups. He was all-conference as a sophomore and senior.

"It's exciting to be able to come home and help this program regain a great status, to get it back to where it was before in the glory days," Love said. "I'm grateful to have this opportunity.

"I have a great passion for this program, this university, this town. We will hit the field



and play as hard as we can for everyone."

"The opportunity to be around LeDell as a football player, and then to watch him grow into a very successful young coach, makes it very gratifying to bring him onto our staff," Laird said.

"He brings the passion and pride in being a Demon. We are getting a guy who not only is a good football coach, who knows the X's and O's, but somebody who really bleeds purple. This place means a lot to him. He left his heart out on the field every day that he played and was a great teammate.

"He earned a lot of respect from a different NSU coaching staff when he came back to be a graduate assistant in 2013 and in those two seasons developed the foundation for what is going to be a great career as a college football coach," Laird said.

Love, who has bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern, was also an

honor roll student as an undergraduate.

Laird said veteran staff member De'Von Lockett will remain as cornerbacks coach at his alma mater. Lockett has been on the NSU defensive staff since 2010.

Jake Olsen, last year's linebackers coach, has also been retained and will shift to coaching the safeties, said Laird. The Demons' new defensive coordinator will be announced next month, he

City announces new recreational development

HOLLY JENKINS Reporter

For many Northwestern State students University and long-term residents alike complained Natchitoches' lack of places to socialize. However, city officials recently announced plans for the construction of a multi-purpose sports park, which will bring more recreational opportunities to residents of Natchitoches.

The park, which will cost an estimated \$12 million to construct, will be located on 100 acres between the NSU Recreation Complex and Dark Woods Haunted Attraction on Highway 6.

Construction is expected to begin this spring and conclude in summer 2019.

According Laurence, city Recreation and Parks director, this project is in partnership with NSU and will benefit students by creating a new space to hang out as well as job opportunities.

Pending approval, the city hopes to connect the park with the NSU Recreation Complex, which would add an additional 100 acres.

According to KTBS, Mayor Lee Posey says the park will be paid for with money from a water and sewer sales tax. Once it opens, a portion of money made at the venue will go to paying off bonds - a process that will take an estimated 12 to 15 years.

Facilities include a soccer field, football field, baseball diamond, fishing area and trails for walking and biking.

"The park will benefit the community in several ways," Laurence said. "I believe it has the potential to draw in people of all ages to enjoy the outdoors and take advantage of facilities we currently don't have in Natchitoches."

In addition to providing

a place for citizens of Natchitoches to mingle, city officials are hoping to draw in people from out of town with the new addition. The park would have all the necessary amenities to host sports tournaments for elementary, middle and high school games as well as NSU games.

According Natchitoches Parish Journal, a name for the park has not yet been decided, but a decision is expected soon.

<u>JAN. 24, 2018</u>

Review: A look at several new PS4 betas

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Opinion Columnist

In the first quarter of 2018, there seems to be a lot of Triple A releases for video games. Recently, I got to try four of the games that went into open beta, meaning that I get to play a version of the game before the retail release: "Monster Hunter: World," "Dragon Ball FighterZ,"
"Dissidia Final Fantasy NT" and "Metal Gear Survive."

"Monster Hunter: World" is the newest title in Capcom's franchise about coming together with four of your friends to take on enormous

You are given a lot of weapons to choose from depending on your playstyle, and there's a lot of strategy involved to take down the big behemoths.

"Monster Hunter: World" streamlines or removes problems that were in previous games; for example, gathering items have been

sped up and the map is more open, allowing for little loading times and seamless transitions to each area.

I tried the multiplayer with friends, and it's as fun as ever. The best part about the game's multiplayer is that you don't need PS Plus to play online. It's a great business decision by Capcom. I've already pre-ordered game, and I'm ready to join the hunt.

"Dragon Ball FighterZ" is a fighting game based off the popular manga series, "Dragon Ball Z."

Instead of a "create your own character" adventure like past games, "FighterZ" is a 2D fighting game where players select three characters from the roster and duke it out in skill-based fights.

If you played the "Marvel Capcom" series, the gameplay is similar to that. The three-versus-three setup allows for combo creativity, and exciting fights.

"Dragon Ball FighterZ" is

made by Arc System Works, the same developers of the Guilty Gear series, and they have perfected the art style of the original manga, coping key frames straight from the

Now that's dedication.

It looks beautiful in motion and the game is a lot of fun, but I'm personally going to wait for a price drop due to the business practice of a \$30 season pass, which includes future DLC fighters.

There's also the problem of many angry players disconnecting before a match finishes to prevent a loss, resulting in an awful player base. I'm just going to wait until these problems are ironed out.

"Dissidia Final Fantasy NT" is another three-versusthree fighting game, except its in an open 3D enviorment, and you get to play as many characters from the "Final Fantasy" series. It's a sequel to the Playstation Portable games, but now has updated titles.

I'm not usually the biggest fan of "Final Fantasy," but I did like the portable games. However, I feel the speed of the game is too slow in NT.

Dashing, sidestepping and executing special moves doesn't feel as smooth as it used to. I still had some fun with this one, but just more of the novelty that I get to see Sephiroth from "Final Fantasy 7" fight Noctis from "Final Fantasy 15" in exciting and flashy battles.

"Metal Gear Survive" is a spinoff title in Konami's well known "Metal Gear" series.

Since the creator of the series has long left the company, Konami decided to recycle the assets from the previous title, "Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain," and create a tower defense game out of it.

Instead of using stealth to sneak around enemies to get to your next objective, "Survive" has you gathering

characters of the most recent resources and defending a base from crystallized zombies. The premise itself, though, is unoriginal, as there are other games on the market that do the same thing.

"Survive" has the luxury of being under the "Metal Gear" license, and it doesn't seem to have the things that make the games fun. Playing the game alone is extremely boring and nightmarish.

Most of the fun came from playing with my friends, messing around in the lobby shooting each other and tripping over oil traps placed in enclosed locations. Multiplayer is a necessity to have fun in this game. There are rumors of microtransactions, and you have to be always online to play the game.

This is probably going to be at a Redbox for \$5 a few months after the game comes out in Feburary. I don't recommend trying it at the moment, but I still do recommend the other titles.



The Eyes of Argus

Fly Away

VALERIE L. CLARK Argus 2003

Uproot your stems and fly away Plant them where there's a brighter day. Surround ourself with your kind With pleasures and peace only you can find.

A peaceful rest with the greenest green With flowing rivers and sparkling streams Waterfalls misting where they meet The clear rivers at the hill's peak.

Sensual aromas of floral spells Lock you to the song of the nightingale Calling you back to seek your path And find your way home at last.

Fly away and follow your heart. Find the love you'd never part. Wrap yourself in its warm embrace, And fly away to a sweeter place.

Local cafe keeps students in mind

FELIX GALVAN BOBBIE JANE

Contributing Writers

Front Street Marketplace, a coffee shop located on Front Street in downtown Natchitoches, offers a variety of gourmet coffee beverages and meals with some geared toward college students.

"One night a week, we offer a really low-priced, all-youcan-eat spaghetti meal, to give college students an option to have something inexpensive to eat," said Erin Austin, a barista.

Angela Dawson, owner and operator, explained that the idea for the spaghetti night started as a business practice.

"[It] was a way to bring in extra business during our not-so-busy times," she said.

Dawson also emphasized that the shop is a family business and friendly atmosphere to enjoy sandwiches, baked goods, coffee and spaghetti.

"Our kids and family and friends all pitch in when needed," she said. "We enjoy [the shop] so much and love seeing our regular customers each week.

Sophomore Jacob Ellis is a frequent customer at the local



Photo by Jordan Reich

eatery and highly recommends the eggnog latte.

"I like the variety of fresh food and drinks offered at Front Street Marketplace," he said. "I also really enjoy the all-you-can-eat spaghetti on Monday evenings."

The marketplace differs from the NSU campus coffee shop Café DeMon because they use Plantation Gourmet Coffee, a nearby roasting company Mooringsport, Louisiana.

"We order very small batches once a week," Austin said. "On Monday, we order coffee [beans]. On Tuesday, they roast our coffee beans, and on Wednesday, they send us our coffee beans [again]."

PGC grows their products chemical-free, pesticide and following regulations by the United States Department of Agriculture. According to PGC, the company uses a slow roasting process "to develop the magical taste, flavor and aroma."

Front Street Marketplace is located at 584 Front St., offers student discounts and hosts a spaghetti night every Monday from 5-9 p.m.

Contributions by Jordan Reich

8 OPINION JAN. 24, 2018

The women's march has a problem

ELLIOT ANGELO DAVIS *Opinion Columnist*

When I arrived at the Women's March in Shreveport at the Caddo Parish Courthouse Saturday, I was greeted by a program of the day's events that dedicated much of its space to a list of rules. These rules emphasized that exercising our free speech is not a fun hobby, but serious business, and that we must remain on the sidewalks while marching.

As the first speaker took the stage, this message that resistance cannot be joyful, and must not be disruptive, was reiterated before anything else. Other speakers asserted that, while coming to the march was good, the important thing was that we voted.

One speaker professed her gratitude that we still have the right to peacefully assemble; I waited for a demand to action – the assertion that this bare minimum of acceptance was not enough, but it never came.

When it began, the march remained dutifully confined to the sidewalk, doing two loops around the courthouse, declaring to everyone that while we were present, we could be safely ignored.



Photo submitted by Meg Denny

Elliot Davis, Meg Denny, Laura Guzman and Elisabeth Perez participated in Shreveport's women's march on Saturday.

We would not disrupt anything or step outside of the system we were opposing. We would not even take to the barren streets and risk inconveniencing minimal traffic for 15 minutes or so.

This degradation of mass movements and the power of individuals acting together is truly sad and disappointing.

The power of the people, united, and the energy of a crowd, is an immense, beautiful and joyful thing. That power and energy has been the impetus for change in every radical movement, every revolution, every act of liberation throughout history.

When we are made to be grateful that we may pay money for the right – which has always been ours – to peacefully assemble, but only so long as we do not disrupt anything or take to the streets – which have always been ours – our spirit, our energy, our joy and our power is stifled by the very same people who are trying to

harness it.

The idea of a crowd of people storming the Capitol now that they've "shut down," of demanding and then building a new system of government that is equipped to hear the people it claims to represent, sounds inconceivable in the modern day.

It is not that simple, we say. And indeed, it's not that easy. But throughout history, we the people can and have done exactly that. Today we forget the power that we possess as the masses who truly make up the country.

Today, us individuals are made to feel that we don't have any power unless we participate in the system which is the mechanism for our oppression. When our voices are discarded and devalued, because that same system makes it its goal to do so, we are made to feel that we do not have any power at all.

It's not true. Yet we are told by our leaders that we must act only within that system, and that other acts of resistance are not legitimate, or are less valuable. But that's exactly why other acts of resistance are valuable and even necessary.

It's not true that there is nothing else we can do.

Yes, vote. Raise your voice within the avenues that we have created in our system. But when they don't hear you, that's not the end of the matter. Take to the streets, talk to your neighbors, find the joy of resistance, and build a movement that is not dependent on the same structures that confine it.

When ten million people come together all demanding justice, you will be loud enough that they will hear.

Calling for change in state discrimination laws against LGBT+

KEATOR POLEMAN

Opinion Columnist

Despite recent advances in rights of LGBT persons such as the milestone Obergefell v. Hodges decision in 2015 that ruled same-sex couples have the right to marry, there are still many roadblocks in the way of equality.

ProCon.org, a nonpartisan website dedicated to identifying pros and cons of issues, says Louisiana was one of 13 states who had their marriage ban overturned as a result of the ruling. The few advances that have been made have faced challenges from the

current Republican-led national government.

In 2016, Gov. John Bel Edwards signed an executive order which gave protections to those employed by the state. The order protected employees from discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, among other things. The Times-Picayune reported in Iune 2017, however, that Louisiana lawmakers later voted against what would have protected workplace discrimination in both the private and public sector.

So long as these protections are not in place,

employers can remove workers who are within the LGBT community.

The transgender community especially has faced considerable violence and adversity. The Human Rights Campaign reported that at least four trans people have been killed in Louisiana. Our culture must change and accept the rights guaranteed to all Americans and stop these acts of violence.

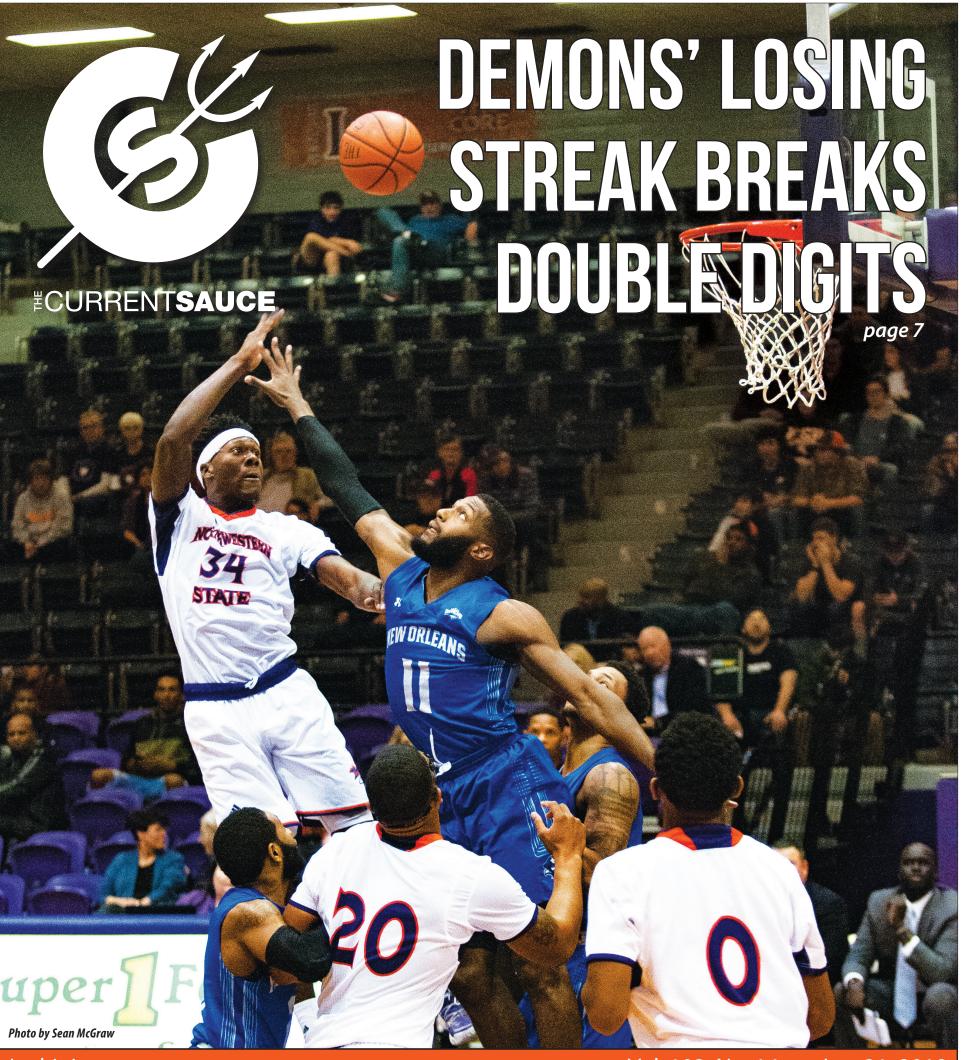
An article published by BuzzFeed News in August 2017 states that Louisiana and 12 other states have hate crime laws that address sexual orientation but not gender identity. The actions of Louisiana lawmakers have shown that they will not fight for the freedoms of all who reside in the state by continuing to discriminate against LGBT peoples.

Without the proper protections in place, there will continue to be discriminatory actions against the LGBT community, sometimes resulting in violence and, as stated earlier, even deaths. Politicians are playing games with the American people and are not living up to our expectations as constituents, as usual.

The U.S. Constitution

recognizes our right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," and as individuals, we all have the right to determine what happiness means to us. But it is up to the federal and state governments to recognize and respect that.

Regardless of what our personal beliefs may be, we are all Americans and are entitled to the same protections. There is no logical reason to deny the rights of others, and it is in the best interest of the entire nation that we respect the rights of our fellow citizens seeking those three quintessential freedoms.



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January 22

Drug Law Violation University Columns Arrest made

January 23

Theft

2000 hours Iberville

Disturbance 2307 hours **University Columns**

January 24

Worthless Checks 1519 hours Student Services Center

Disturbance Kappa Alpha House

January 25

Hit and Run 1602 hours PA₅

January 26

Criminal Damage 1213 hours NSU Police Department

Burglary 2323 hours **University Columns**

January 27

Unauthorized Access 1536 hours University Place I

Hit and Run 1600 hours Prather Coliseum

January 28

Criminal Damage 1340 hours University Place I

President's List, Dean's List or Honor Roll?

Did you make the

Check news.nsula.edu for the full lists.

Police Blotter SAP to host charity event

EMMA BURLET Reporter

Students for Animal Protection will host charity ball benefiting the Natchitoches Humane Society, hoping to help the organization care for rescue animals

SAP member Sage Leffew hopes the event raises awareness of the amount of animals in Natchitoches that need not only homes but veterinary treatment.

We are not only getting the community involved, but students of NSU and all of campus to interact with each other," she said.

The Feb. 7 formal event begins at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Tickets cost \$10 for NSU and LSMSA students and \$20 for others. Food will be provided, and guests can win door prizes or participate in raffles for gift cards and gift baskets.

something just different and fun that you don't see around campus often," said Haley Tucker, SAP president. "I figured that it would be a good way to get people reeled in to donate to the Humane Society and be aware of things that are going on in Natchitoches."

The Natchitoches Humane Society works to get animals out of unhealthy and unsafe situations. This event aims to help fund the organization's efforts to save local "fur angels," a moniker often used by NHS President Juanita Murphy.

"We are all they have," she said. "There's nobody out there except for us."

City Mayor Lee Posey and Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Victor Jones will speak at the

"We wanted the mayor of Natchitoches and the sheriff to come because they deal with the same problems," Murphy said, adding that both of these men have dealt with animal control and safety in the community.

Another upcoming NHS event is the Krewe of Waguns parade, starting Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. Children and pets will dress up to celebrate Mardi Gras and parade in the streets.

more information on either event, visit the Natchitoches Humane Society Facebook page.

Mardi Paws Ball

Feb. 7, 7-10 p.m. Student Union Ballroom

Gradfest aims to help students post-graduation

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

While students focus on their day-to-day lives, one group on campus has the future looming overhead: seniors. Anxieties about graduation and what to do after college often fill minds they receive continual reminders of that milestone ceremony in May.

One key event during seniors' remaining time is Gradfest.

This year, Alumni Affairs and Career Services joined Gradfest with another event, the Career Fair, so students can prepare for graduation with cap and gown photos but also for life after receiving a diploma.

combining "We're [the to events] target more students," said Randi Washington, assistant director of Career Services. "It's not always convenient to [have two events]. We felt that combining the two would work to our students' advantage."

"Students want to hear the real-world application about what's next and what to expect," said Van Erickson, associate director of Alumni

Gradfest, set for Feb. 6,

consists of keynote speakers Virginia Monceret and Wil Adams-both of which are NSU alumni – as well as workshops, portraits and a browse of more than 20 potential employers and graduate schools. Jostens will also be present for students to order caps, gowns, stoles, rings and graduation announcements.

Erickson also spoke about NSU's networking platform, demoNSUnite.net.

The website was started a year and a half ago and declares four pillars: connect, engage, give and advance.

'The whole premise of the platform is to put students and alumni together on the same networking platform so they can post jobs, internships and [so much more]," Erickson said.

demoNSUnite includes directory searchable by location and field, job openings, and a "willing to help" designation that allows members to show on their profile if they are interested in helping others network, host an event, help recruit or act as a mentor.

"[NSU doesn't] have a job portal like some other universities, so that's what [Career Services] has been

using the website Washington said.

In preparation for Gradfest and Career Fair, Career Services is also hosting Career Fair Week Jan. 29 - Feb. 2 concentrated on three workshops: "Building a Resume," "LinkedIn 101" and "Navigating Networking at Career Fair." Multiple sessions of each workshop will be held throughout the week in the President's Room of the Friedman Student Union.

"I believe in students knowing how to market themselves, and we need to equip the students with what they need [to do that]," Washington said.

Gradfest will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union on Feb. 6. To RSVP, visit eventbrite.com and search "Spring 2018 NSU Gradfest & Career Fair."

Additional help from Counseling and Career Services can be found in Room 306 of the Student Union or online at ccs.nsula.edu/ career-services/

Gradfest

Feb. 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Student Union Ballroom

SGA Meeting: *Initiatives, campus* improvements

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

The Student Government Association. following the Leadership NSU conference this past weekend, is looking to the future of the university, both as an institution as a whole and aspects of the physical campus that can be worked on.

President Tre Nelson again spoke about the initiative to plant trees on campus, elaborating on one of the trail walks he took with Dr. Margaret Cochran.

SGA is additionally looking to "spruce up" the walkways by Chaplin's Lake with trees and mile markers.

"[We want to] help keep people engaged," Nelson said.

With that, Nelson delivered his report on other campus projects, including the courtyard in the Friedman Student Union. Alpha Lambda Delta, a first year honor society on campus, handles the upkeep of the courtvard.

"We're going to have conversations with Alpha Lambda Delta just to see what we we can do to make that courtyard more appealing," Nelson said.

A dedication memorial

is also in the works for students who have passed away during their time at NSU.

Nelson, speaking about his trip to Washington D.C. last week, said he met with almost all Louisiana legislators and will meet with campus administrators "to talk about the political agenda of the university."

Sen. Ty Wright also reported on campus initiatives to come, including Mental Health Awareness week planned for March 12-16. Events include speakers and sessions at the WRAC such as yoga and meditation.

JAN. 31, 2018 NEWS 3



The Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge

hoto by Jim Plylar

Many displeased with state proposed budget



Proposed budget summary

Total \$25.3 billion operating budget

Cuts

- \$656.6 million from Department of Health
- \$233.34 million from Taylor Opportunity Program for Students
- \$25.8 million from state district attorneys
- \$10 million from parole holds paid to local sheriffs

Visit louisiana.gov to see the governor's full proposal

KEATOR POLEMAN *Reporter*

Louisiana is no stranger to budget crises. Once again, the state finds itself stuck in the middle of a dilemma that could greatly impact its citizens

Gov. John Bel Edwards' proposed plan will affect many programs. According to The Advocate, the proposal will include an 80 percent cut to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, along with cuts to public colleges and universities, mental health rehab and substance abuse services.

The steep reduction to TOPS in Edwards' proposed budget has led many to call for a better solution – one of which was University of Louisiana System President Jim Henderson. He believes the program should remain funded, according to the News Star in Monroe, Louisiana.

While Henderson has been a staunch advocate for TOPS, Louisiana State University President F. King Alexander believes the state legislature should not fund the program if it is "at the expense of direct funding to higher education," as reported by the News Star.

Northwestern State University President Chris Maggio has also expressed concern about Edwards' plan. In an email sent to NSU alumni, Maggio urged them to assist current students.

"Such deep reductions in TOPS scholarships would have a drastically negative impact on funding and enrollment at Northwestern," he said. "A substantial percentage of students receiving TOPS would not be able to stay in school."

The so-called "doomsday budget" would be devastating to health and educational services as well. These services are often hurt by cuts due to regulations that limit how the state spends its money, according to The Advocate.

Edwards' proposal would mean NSU would face a "slow and painful" recovery, according to Maggio. He called on the university's alumni to contact state legislators and voice their concerns with the budget proposal.

"The proposed cut to the university's budget and the loss of revenues from TOPS scholarships would make it necessary for Northwestern to dip into reserves and curtail programs and services,"

Maggio said.

Edwards himself is also at odds with the proposal. According to The Advocate, Edwards told state lawmakers he didn't want to make these cuts. State Treasurer John Schroder has been vocal about his disapproval of the budget and called the system "broken."

"The budget plan ... does not address the underlying problems with state government spending and misses an opportunity for true reform and savings," Schroder said in a press release.

In his criticism of the governor, Schroder listed suggestions his own "Review all for reform: expenditures, credits, rebates and exemptions. Collect unrecovered state ... Revamp the Medicaid Program to reduce fraud and implement work requirements and co-pays.

"Unlock dedications and remove unnecessary obstacles to prioritize state spending. Reform the budget structure and process for long-term improvements. Adopt a progrowth tax code ... Reform capital outlay to focus on statewide infrastructure priorities."



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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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JAN. 31, 2018 FEATURE 5

A life devoted to TCALINES

LYDIA WILLIAMS

Social Media Manager

The books are winning here," she says as she enters her office. "They're winning everywhere, really – my office and my home. There's a character in E.M. Forster's novel 'Howard's End' that gets killed when a bookcase falls on him, and I keep thinking that might be my end."

Dr. Holly Stave is correct. Her office in Morrison Hall is overrun with books: big books, small books, old books, paperback books, textbooks. It is evidence of a lifetime of devoted reading and thirst for knowledge. Stave admits she loves getting paid to read novels.

"I was an avid, avid reader even as a child. That was my escape from a very lonely childhood in eastern Montana, so books became my friends very early on," she says.

Stave teaches English in the Louisiana Scholars' College. A teacher there for 19 years, Stave loves teaching highly motivated students and loves living in the South, though she isn't a fan of small-town life.

"It's kind of been a trade-off, because I get to teach these amazing students that I would not be teaching anywhere else," she says.

S tave is also a wife, an outspoken feminist, a world traveler and proud cat mom. However, she has more than just teaching ties in Natchitoches.

She is also the high priestess of her coven of Wiccan witches. Achieving this stature required her to participate in training and education with a teaching coven when she lived in Atlanta before finally being initiated to the third degree and earning the high priestess title.

Stave says that while Wiccans typically keep a low profile, they can easily find one another in places like Renaissance festivals, crystal shops and new-age stores.

Stave, however, enjoys a freedom that many others who practice Wicca do not.

"In academe, there's a great deal of sense of freedom when it comes to being what you are and not having to hide it," she says. "The fact that I wrote a book on Wicca is on my resume, and anyone who interviewed me knew that. I thought, I don't want to go somewhere and then have to be, as we call it, 'back in the broom closet."

Stave says she has known people who have worried about others discovering they are Wiccans. People tend to stay quiet because they fear losing custody of their children or harming their reputation. The greater worry for Stave is not any kind of danger, but that people would consider her an idiot.

"'You know, what, she flies around on a broom?' No, she doesn't do that," she says. "Academics tend to be pretty agnostic. It's like, don't think I'm a weirdo just because I have a belief system." Stave has also used this academic freedom given to her by the Scholars' College to create a curriculum she loves, centered around literature she is passionate about.

"My passion is for novels, particularly contemporary novels written by women," she says. "I just love women's literature. There's a freshness to it.

"Women haven't taken for granted for quite as long that they can write and get published, so there's still an excitement about telling those stories that makes me happy."

Stave considers feminism to be a heavy influence on her life. She began reading feminist literature early on in high school and quickly devoured everything she could.

She aligns herself with "radical feminism" and considers feminism ineffective if it does not account for intersections with race, sexual orientation, class and environmental issues.

She has found a wealth of inspiration in many strong feminist role models.

"I definitely admire Gloria Steinem," she says. "But I also think of people like Elizabeth Warren and Hillary Clinton and women who are my age; peers who have lived their lives in very similar circumstances to mine, on the one hand both being aware of and having to resist a whole bunch of stupidity and on another hand having doors open for us that our mothers didn't have. So those women continually are an inspiration to me."

While discouraged by the current state of American politics and the apparent regression into anti-feminist attitudes, she still maintains hope in the form of her students.

"It doesn't seem like it should be that difficult to grasp," she says. "But if you read the news at all these days ... I never thought ... we'd still be dealing with some of the foolishness we're dealing with."

"It's so disheartening. Then I see young women who embrace feminism, and young men in Scholars' who embrace feminism and it's like 'Okay, you know, these past years have made a difference."

continued on page 6

6 ARTS & LIVING JAN. 31, 2018

New Orleans Black Chorale to perform

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA
Reporter

Northwestern Creole Heritage Center, NSU Jazz Orchestra and the School of Creative and Performing Arts will host "Down by the Riverside: Celebrating Ancestries, Lives and Legacies" in Magale Recital Hall on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. The concert will feature the New Orleans Black Chorale, with proceeds benefiting the Dr. Terrel A. Delphin, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The New Orleans Black Chorale formed out of a group that sang with the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony in 1980; they focused on African-American contributions to New Orleans culture. According to the New Black Chorale Orleans website, the original group consisted of soloists, members of church and college choirs and other individuals interested in "preserving American Negro Spirituals."

The Chorale will be directed by Dr. John E. Ware, an Xavier University music professor, and accompanied by pianist Dr.



Photo courtesy of New Orleans Black Chorale

Wilfred Delphin. Dennis Montgomery III, director of the Music Reverence Gospel Ensemble, will be the guest organist for the concert.

The group has also been responsible for rewarding music scholarships to students of Xavier, Dillard and Southern universities.

The Dr. Terrel A. Delphin, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in 2016 in honor of Dr. Terrel Alphonse Delphin, Jr., one of the voices that led to creation of the Louisiana Creole Heritage Center at NSU. He died in 2012 from a stroke-related illness.

According to his obituary, Dr. Delphin, Jr. had a "desire to protect and promote the beautiful Cane

River area," and felt that the Natchitoches African-American community had an important leadership history and achievements worthy of recognition.

Tickets for the concert cost \$20 for individuals or \$35 for couples. Students with proper ID can attend for \$10, and groups of 20 or more can request a group rate.

Loletta Wynder, director of the Creole Heritage Center, is also looking to the community for support. Concert sponsorships are available for \$500, \$250 and \$100. Questions about pricing or those interested in sponsoring the event can contact Wynder at 318-357-6685 or at wynderl@nsula. edu



The Eyes of Argus

Judging

THOMAS A. ZIMMERMAN

Argus 1989

I walked down the street and saw three people serving the Lord.

The first served the Lord with songAnd the Lord smiled.

I did not like his voice.

The second served the Lord with words-Again the Lord smiled. I had a problem with his method of speech.

The third served the Lord with actions-The Lord smiled. I thought his actions were too drastic.

Then the Lord looked down on me and said, "Just how do you serve me?"

I thought for awhile and smiled when I came up with an answer I knew the Lord would like. I said, "I serve You in prayer."

Then the Lord looked down and said, "I never heard you.

Besides, I do not like your voice and your words are too drastic."

continued from page 5

S tave knew she wanted to be a teacher before she ever attended school.

"My poor friends – when they'd come visit to play after school, we'd play school, and I was always the teacher," she said.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in English from Concordia College and advanced degrees from the University of Minnesota, Stave jumped around, teaching in Minnesota, Georgia and Wisconsin. It was then when she guest lectured at the Scholars' College, invited by longtime friend and former Scholars' history professor Dr. Rick Jensen.

She received a call from Jensen in 1998 after a while of longing to return to the South.

"He said that two faculty in the English department had just married each other and both of them had resigned, and so the Scholars' College had an opening in English, and I applied for it," she says. "I was just desperate to get it, and I did."

Stave does not hesitate when asked about her favorite thing about teaching at the Scholars' College: "the students."

"They're so very, very bright, but they're not jaded. My students are so excited about learning, and that's refreshing and exhilarating," she says.

And her students love her back. Former student Tori Mato considers Stave one of her favorite teachers for many reasons.

"I liked how honest she was with her opinions and how willing she was to help us with our writing and with reading and delving deep into literature," Mato says. "She really wanted us to think on a

deeper level

"She's opened my eyes to a lot of things. I came to college from such a small town, and I was really influenced by the people there, and I didn't have a lot of opinions of my own. Dr. Stave has taught me a lot and given me a more open mind."

In addition to being a former student of Stave's, Mato is also her tenant. She and another student have rented the two-bedroom guest house attached to Stave's home for around two years. Mato is grateful for the arrangement, which has allowed her and Stave to grow from a professional student-teacher relationship into a genuine friendship.

"I think of her as sort of a mentor," she says. "Her and Mr. Richard are great landlords, and they always invite me to talk with them on their porch and just visit." Richard Pool, Stave's husband of 14 years, is also a professor. He hails from Rhode Island but now teaches criminal justice at Bossier Parish Community College.

"Yeah. Two teachers, no money!" Stave laughs.

Stave dubs Pool and herself "the Louisiana couple." They met at a post-fireworks party during Natchitoches' famous Christmas Festival, got engaged at midnight at a bar in New Orleans during Mardi Gras and were married in a hotel courtyard in the French Quarter.

"The Louisiana Travel Commission should put us on their webpage," she says.

While the two have no children of their own, they have three inside cats, two cats who live outside, and they also feed neighborhood raccoons. Stave describes

being a pet parent as "just the best" and delightedly tells stories about her animal companions, who she says are "just as sassy as children."

Stave considers traveling a grand passion and has been to every state in the United States except Alaska, in addition to her international travels. She very much believes in traveling and takes trips as often as she can.

Where is she headed next? "The Pacific Northwest," she says.

Stave dreams of happily retiring with Pool in Vienna or on the coast of Spain, where she says, "I could spend the rest of my life."

For now, Stave is satisfied with where she is. As a highly respected teacher, a spiritual leader, a wife, a landlady and more, it is clear the books are not the only ones winning; Stave is as well.

JAN. 31, 2018 SPORTS 7

Demons show potential amid losing streak

HOLLY JENKINS
Reporter

The last few weeks have proven to be tough for Men's Basketball. The Demons currently have an 12-game losing streak, an overall record of 3-17 and a conference record of 0-9.

Despite this, Coach Mike McConathy says that the team's spirit has not diminished. Their effort has shown in high points such as their 30-point win against Louisiana College on Dec. 9 and in the success of players like Ishmael Lane who has an average score of 12.7 points per 25.1 minutes of game time.

McConathy believes the losses are partly attributed to the fact that the team is made up of young players, many of which are freshmen.

"Moving forward, we have to make adjustments everyday to become a stronger team,"



Freshman guard Caleb Starks prepares to take a shot. He currently averages 1.4 points per game.

Photo by Sean McGraw

McConathy said. "After several tough losses we need to learn from the past and make an effort to become the team I know we're capable of being."

The season hasn't been much easier for the Lady Demons, with an overall record of 6-14, a conference record of 1-8 and a three game losing streak.

Their most recent win was Jan. 17 against Sam Houston State University. It was a close game with a final score of 63-60—a team effort that kept the audience on the edge of their

seats until the final second.

Several players have also suffered from injuries, three of which are starters.

"We've had a lot of really close games," Head Coach Jordan Dupuy said. "We started out strong but it's a day-by-day process and our girls just have to continue to put up a fight which will hopefully allow us to come out on top."

Following the Jan. 31 home game against University of New Orleans is a double-header at home Feb. 3 against McNeese, a team that is currently 4-4 in the conference.

"McNeese has a lot of great players and a great coach," McConathy said. "They're a tough team to beat for sure but our team has been working hard and we hope to see that pay off."

Both team schedules can be viewed at nsudemons.com

Jobe pair to lead NSU Soccer

SAMANTHA MAIETTE *Managing Editor*

After the resignation of former Head Coach George Van Linder, this past fall the Northwestern State Lady Demon soccer team went on a hunt for a replacement. His replacement came in the form of not one, but two cohead coaches.

Jess and Anna Jobe, a husband and wife duo, spent the last few seasons as assistant coaches at Dallas Baptist University. Both have an understanding of soccer and what it means to be a college athlete.

"My start was always just being involved with athletics and sports in some way, and soccer was always one of those constants," Jess Jobe said. "[Being a college athlete] guided me to be more responsible and more discipline with how I spent my time."

Anna Jobe's start in sports began early in life.

"My dad is a football coach, so I grew up around team sports," she said. "I

knew I wanted to coach from a really young age so it was a natural choice when choosing majors."

Coaching with one's significant other may seem odd to the average person, but for Jess and Anna it isn't.

"It's not that different," he said. "Every college staff in the country has to communicate at a really high level, so that's one thing being married that we're constantly working on."

Anna agrees with her husband.

"This [being married] was a big part of our interview process, and people asking us how we would do it, and it just boils down to having the same preceptive about what we're doing," she said. "And that perceptive is not about us; our career is about these girls and their soccer experience."

When new coaches come in, a transition period occurs as they take their plan off paper and make it a reality. This process is already beginning to take place as the Jobes usher in their game

plan for the Lady Demons.

"The goal is to unite them first and get us all on the same page with common goals in mind and commitment in the right areas," Jess Jobe said. "Disciple and accountability are a big part of that."

Anna has already seen areas that need to be improved on in the few short weeks she has been a part of the Demon family.

"We've got some improvements to make," she said. "But the effort and attitude are there so we've been proud of them so far."

Senior April Trowbridge has her own thoughts on this new addition.

"It's a positive change and the biggest thing they're doing right now is coming in and changing the mentality of the team, which is a huge aspect of what the off-season is about," the forward said.

The Lady Demons will take to the field later this year with new coaches and players ready to accomplish their goals and improve on last year's results.

Jalan West ends time at NSU

ZOE ALMARAZ

Reporter

After playing with the Northwestern State University basketball team, Jalan West's standout career has ended.

West, who was enrolled as a seventh-year senior, left the team during winter break for personal reasons and did not register for the spring semester. As of this report, he has not responded to a request for comment.

While the point guard was on the roster, NSU either led the country in scoring or finished second.

"Jalan was a tremendous player for us who helped our program to a lot of success on the court," Head Coach Mike McConathy said.

This is evident in his achievements, including the following: top-10-ranked career in Southland Conference history for assists, assists per game, steals, steals per game and 3-point aim; having three top 10 Southland Conference single-season performances; a .865 career free throw percentage, which is the best all-time by any

Southland Conference player.

McConathy also called West a "special ambassador" for NSU and the basketball program. One example was through his introduction of Gov. John Bel Edwards at NSU's spring 2016 graduation ceremonies and his nomination for the National Association of Basketball Coaches Allstate Good Works Team in 2015-16 for his leadership and character.

At NSU, West holds the titles of sixth all-time in career scoring, third all-time in career steals and at the end of the 2015-16 season was ranked fourth among all active players in assists. He also scored 37 percent of the points scored by the team during his time on the court.

West graduated in 2016 with a degree in general studies, though the NCAA granted him a seventh-year waiver – a rare accommodation – due to injury. He ended up only playing eight games of the season before leaving NSU.

To read more about West, visit nsudemons.com. It includes a breakdown of his statistics and articles about his achievements. 8 OPINION JAN. 31, 2018

It's long past time to update sex education

ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

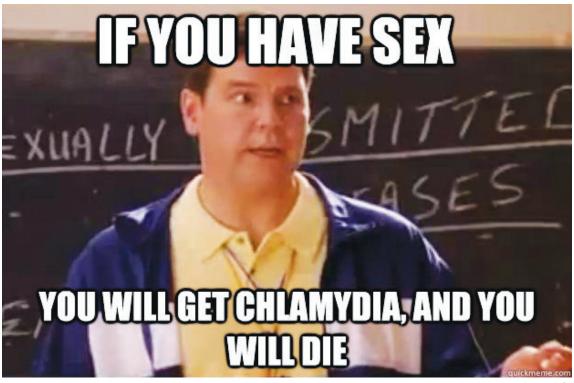
Americans aged 20-24 make up the largest number of sexually transmitted disease diagnoses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Furthermore, young adults and adolescents in Louisiana lead the nation in syphilis rates, with HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhea falling closely behind.

Some people think the state's sex education policies need to change to combat this trend. I agree and think this trend is unfortunate and, frankly, unnecessary.

The majority of state lawmakers have killed legislation to modify sex education for years. However, three out of every four parents in Louisiana are in favor of requiring public schools to teach sex education.

Let me break that down: Louisiana public schools are *not required* to provide sex education instruction, although approximately 75 percent of parents believe they should be.

But the majority of Louisiana senators would



From "Mean Girls"

rather point and scream at the thought of the CDC surveying kids' sexual activity, calling it an "assault on innocence."

Here's yet another instance of elected officials ignoring their constituents when statistics clearly show their desires.

Last May, weekly New Orleans newspaper Gambit spoke with several state lawmakers both in favor and opposed to providing comprehensive sex education – that is, instruction that includes medically accurate information about ways to reduce unplanned pregnancies and risk of STDs while emphasizing abstinence as the best method.

Those who are affiliated with Northwestern State University will likely find one familiar name in the Gambit article: Sen. Gerald Long,

NSU class of 1966.

He claims Louisiana's almost-nation-leading STD rates and pregnancy rates that trail close behind reflect a "social and moral and spiritual problem." Further, he doubts students are likely to be truthful if state legislators allowed the CDC to survey them anonymously about their sexual activity.

If you would be so kind as to enlighten us, Long: What

is this social, moral and spiritual problem you speak of? Is there a problem unique to Louisiana and almost the entire southeastern region – i.e., Bible Belt – that can explain why its STD rates are significantly higher than the rest of the nation?

Yes, there is a problem. It is the lack of information provided by qualified educators in controlled environments.

Louisiana residents, remember this: Your elected officials work for you. The 2018 Regular Legislative Session begins March 12. The time to call them and make your desires known is now.

Legislation regarding sex education has not been modified in 25 years; this state is long overdue for an update that reflects its citizens' desires. Requiring schools to teach sex education, even if we have to compromise and continue with abstinence-only programs, can be the first step toward a healthier public.

Long, I hope you and other legislators who voted to opt out of the CDC's survey quit dragging your asses and get out of the comfortable state of ignorance you embrace.

New year, same Party Girl

PARTY GIRL
Anonymous Contributor

My new year's resolution was to cut back on the partying and exert my energy elsewhere. Hit the gym more. Get into a stable, adult relationship. Your typical "new year, new me" changes.

Well... We all know how resolutions go. And mine went down the drain with my sobriety.

That two-day week due to the snowstorm really cleared my schedule, so what better way to keep busy than to attend all the impromptu parties thrown?

Snow days? More like hoe

The only people who like to party nonstop more than me are your good ole Frat

Bros™ – you know, when they aren't busy dealing with their own intrafraternal issues (Remember #racistKappaSigma?). They're a very reliable source of fun, but not a very reliable source for a stable relationship.

Not the best choice for my new year's resolution, I know, but I still rolled up with my girls to a back to school party.

When we walked in, the house was packed tighter than the elevator in Kyser Hall. You couldn't turn without hitting someone and spilling a drink, which probably explains why the floor was so sticky.

I was very pleased to quickly be shown where the open bar was. I mean, they were accepting tips, but it's not like I could even afford the daquiri I got before the party.

For the first hour, it was like any other typical frat party: music so loud you could barely think and guys trying to get with any girl who will give them the time of day. Nothing new from last semester.

I was just trying to embrace the free alcohol and mass of girls trying to impress the guy across the room who was more worried about winning his game of beer pong when the fire alarm went off.

Have you ever seen a sea of drunk people trying to shove their asses out of one door?

Me either, because I don't really remember this happening! I was lucky enough to get dragged away by my friends before more

s--- hit the fan.

I do, however, remember waking up the next morning in bed with someone I barely knew and a blurry recollection of how I got there... Probably not the best thing, but it happens.

Now that I'm swamped with more assignments and quizzes than shots I can

handle before blacking out, it's time for this party girl to take a break and get her life together.

Until we meet again,

XOXO,

Party girl



NEWS

University makes progress on tree replacement

ARTS & LIVING

'Music for Prague' and more to be performed Thursday

SPORTS

Several Demons post excellent times at recent track meets

OPINION

'Monster Hunter' new release worth the buy FEB. 7, 2018



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NSU Food Pantry reopens

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Reporter

The NSU Student Food Pantry is open for the semester for students in need of food. The pantry is located in the Trisler Power Plant that faces Magale Hall, right under the tall smokestack with the "N" near the top.

The concept for the food pantry came from three students in the 2015 Social spring Work Communities with Organizations class. The students polled other NSU students to determine the need on campus and received permission from department head Dr. Wade Tyler and former President Dr. Jim Henderson.

Since opening, the pantry has served over 500 students in need and runs completely on volunteer students, faculty and staff.

Any NSU or BPCC@ NSU student with an ID and current sticker is eligible to receive food. Students are required to fill out an application before picking out their items, but no financial information or explanation of their personal situation is required. Those in need are allowed to pick out food once a week, free of charge.

Food available includes the following:

- canned fruits, vegetables, meats and pasta meals
- macaroni and cheese
- · cereals
- peanut butter
- water

Other than food, students are able to select from t-shirts and toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpastes, deodorant, toilet paper and feminine hygiene products.

Assistant professor of social work and coordinator of the NSU Student Food Pantry Denise Bailey understands the importance of the pantry to specific groups of students.

We are able to serve our international students who do not meet the citizenship requirements for state or food federal assistance programs," she said.

Right now, the pantry is in need of peanut butter, canned tuna, canned fruit and breakfast items. Those wishing to donate can drop food off at the food pantry or at the designated box in Watson Library.

This semester, the food pantry will be open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 11-5 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11-12:30 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Students wishing to volunteer can pick up an application during pantry hours or can contact Denise Bailey via email at garlandd@ nsula.edu or by phone at 318-357-6129.



A new Chicken Express on South Drive opened for business Monday.

Photo by Sean McGraw

New eats: Chicken Express opens

EMMA BURLET

Reporter

A brand-new Chicken Express opened on South giving Drive Feb. 5, Natchitoches residents another fast food option. The restaurant will host a grand opening ceremony on Feb.

Kelli Hickerson, junior, explains that her family of six eats there often when she goes home. For larger families, the restaurant provides a lot of food for a reasonable price.

"I am very, very excited,"

she said. "It's going to offer us more diversity and it's just another place I can go to with my friends."

Joe Harris, one of the owners, said they chose this location because they were looking for a larger town, and this town was a natural choice. They always wanted to start a business here, partially due to having family ties in the area.

"Over the years that we come here we really do like the city of Natchitoches," said Robert Harris, the other owner. "We love the oldtimey atmosphere, and it's a bigger town, too."

This new location will serve chicken strips, boneless wings, fish, gizzards, livers, spicy chicken wings and more. It offers many side options including macaroni and cheese, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, and their popular fried okra.

Chicken Express will give 10-percent discounts to first responders, and they are looking to develop a good relationship with not only NSU, but Natchitoches as a whole. They are considering student discounts.

SGA Meeting: Campus bookstore change, Chick-fil-A to begin construction

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

President Tre Nelson attended a leadership meeting Feb. 5 regarding construction projects; the main topic of discussion was the new Chickfil-A and the Barnes & Noble campus bookstore closure.

"Ground break [for the Chick-fil-A] will be March 15," he said.

Neebo will move out of their current location on University Parkway and into the area in the Friedman Student Union that currently houses the Barnes & Noble bookstore for the rest of the semester. The Neebo location across from campus will then be renovated; the University conceptual rendering depicts a Chick-fil-A, NSU bookstore and Shipley Do-Nuts.

The Chick-fil-A will be run through Sodexo and allegedly take declining balance.

With the shutdown of the Barnes & Noble bookstore, Sen. Jacob Ellis said he will order scantrons from another provider. Nelson introduced the idea of turning the Student Union space into a chamber once construction has finished.



Mardi Gras parade

Feb. 10 6 p.m. **Downtown Natchitoches** <u>| FEB. 7, 2018</u>

NSU initiates tree project folice Blotter

Associate Editor

Northwestern State, in collaboration with Student Government Association, the city of Natchitoches and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, has started a project to restore trees throughout campus, especially in areas deemed historic districts.

NSU has lost trees over time to disease, storm damage and construction; four were removed in July and August 2017. A committee has been tasked with mapping where trees once existed, if they are still there and which species of trees should be planted in those areas that lack trees.

"[We] hope to introduce more native species throughout the campus where we need trees, either to replace invasive species or to enhance the campus environment," said Dr. Margaret Cochran, professor of ecology and mathematics.

For trees that are diseased or dying, Gil Gilson, capital outlay and special projects coordinator at NSU, said he has tried to save seeds those trees produced. If the seeds are planted and grow successfully, then they are descendants of the original trees that once stood on campus.

In the case of the Chinese tallow trees, however, the species will not be restored, but rather fully removed. According to the United States



The walkway along Chaplin's Lake is one area in which the university intends to plant new trees.

Photo by Jordan Reich

Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services, the Chinese tallow is an invasive species and "the most successful exotic invader of ... Louisiana."

SGA President Tre Nelson has reported on the progress of the tree initiative at the past three SGA meetings and said Dr. Cochran has shown him a few areas in person that need improvement.

"SGA is ... going to be planting a few trees just to build up the tree population on a short-term basis, and then long term we have a big three-year plan," Nelson said about the organization's involvement with the project.

Gilson said he has been

cataloging trees on the entire campus and identifying their species in order to create an updated record for future use. While creating the registry, Gilson made sure to take photos of each tree.

He also mentioned the recreation of a walking trail that had many trees along it in the 1960s and 70s, according to Gilson.

"We found in the original walk there were 25 trees that they highlighted to walk around and see," he said. "Of that 25, I think 15 are gone.

"It's amazing how many are gone [from all over campus]... [With] all the bad weather we've had for the last five years, we've probably lost about 40 or 50 trees."

Gilson said the goal is to make the trail interactive using smartphone technology that can provide information about the tree, such as its age and who planted it.

Additionally, they looking to expand the current bird trail and later create a walking and biking trail in the forest area on Highway 6 near the land dedicated to the new Natchitoches sports park.

The city of Natchitoches has also taken the initiative to plant more trees, deeming January 2018 "Arbor Month." According to the Natchitoches Parish Journal, "These trees are just the beginning."

The committee will meet again on Feb. 22 to discuss the project further.

January 29

Theft 1442 hours Varnado Hall

Fondling 1628 hours Caddo Hall

January 30

Dating Violence 1523 hours Student Union

January 31

Complaint 1524 hours **NSU** Police Department Unfounded

February 1

Theft 0820 hours WRAC

February 2

Complaint 1200 hours **Student Services** Cleared

February 4

Drug Law Violation 2255 hours Columns Gate Arrest made



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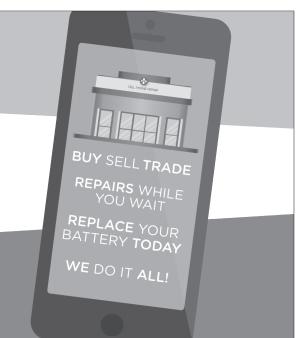
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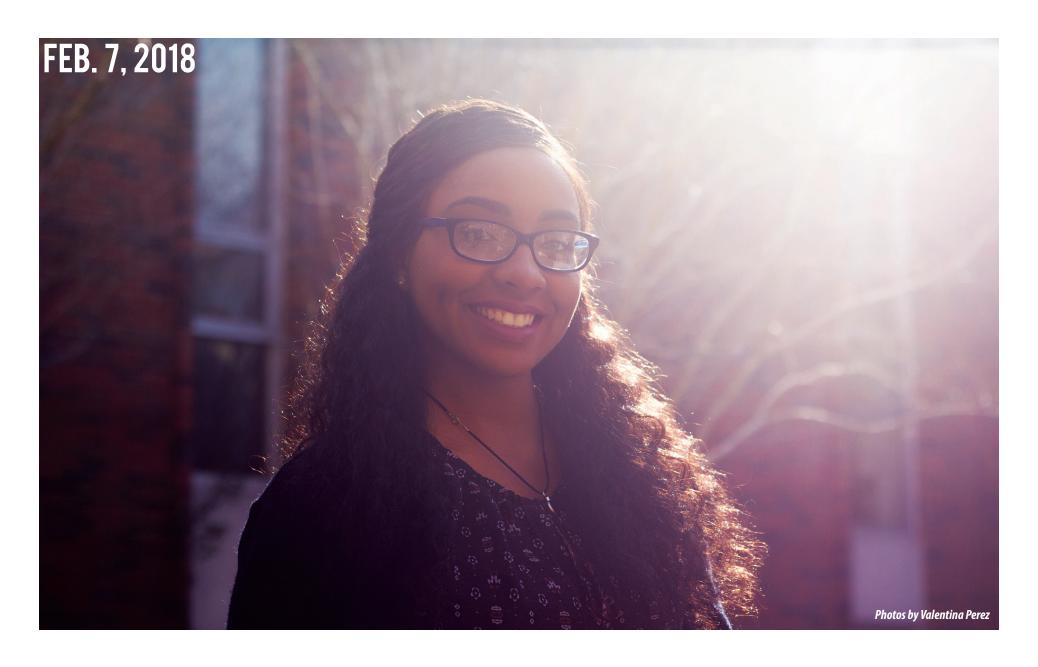
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IXIXIXIXIX

Trained Ready Ready

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

A lexis Smith's supervisor warned her about the high turnover rate in this profession. Nevertheless, she started her internship six years ago with an open mind, determined to make a difference where she could.

She began training at Project Celebration's Shreveport sexual assault outreach office and later went on her first call to provide counseling. After training and completing the first call, something "clicked."

"This was something that I knew I wanted to stay in," she said.

And she did. Smith now finds herself on the third floor of the Friedman Student Union as Northwestern State University's new Title IX coordinator and director of student advocacy.

IX

K nowing she has the knowledge, skills and resources to help people is Smith's biggest motivation.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. During her time at ULM, she interned with Project Celebration providing counseling to victims of sexual assault.

After receiving her undergraduate degree, Smith enrolled at NSU and served as a graduate assistant for Counseling Services until she earned her master's degree in counseling in December 2017.

During finals week last semester, a hiring committee – consisting of two Counseling Services employees, Campus Police's lead detective, a faculty member and two students, one graduate and one undergraduate – interviewed and selected two top candidates. Smith was offered the position and began on Jan. 18.

"She will work well with law enforcement, the administration and, most importantly, students," says Ashlyn Guidry, hiring committee member and Demons Support Demons president.

Guidry says Smith is in full support of student advocacy groups and has agreed to be the new faculty adviser for DSD, a position previously belonging to her predecessor. Ultimately, Guidry believes Smith is the best pick for the job and an "awesome" person.

In the event of sexual assault or harassment, Smith encourages

complainants to report crime to police, helps them to decide whether or not to press charges, keeps complainants and alleged perpetrators informed of investigation outcomes and helps both parties identify healthy coping mechanisms.

"Whether they accept that help or not, that's completely up to them," she says. "But knowing that I have that ability to help – that I have that drive to help – that just motivates me to do what I do."

Smith's job encompasses more than just addressing sexual assault and harassment complaints; she is responsible for ensuring NSU complies with federal Title IX regulations.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Title IX, ratified as part of the Education Amendments of 1972, mandates the above and names the Office for Civil Rights as the law's enforcer. Furthermore, courts and the Department of Education interpret the policy to also require schools be proactive in addressing reports of sexual violence.

Smith is in the process of familiarizing herself with new federal guidance enacted by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Reversing an Obama-era policy, the department now directs schools to use the "clear and convincing evidence" standard, meaning the evidence must prove something is substantially more likely than not to be true.

From 2011 to 2017, cases were to be judged using the "preponderance

of the evidence" standard, a lower standard that requires more than 50 percent of evidence point to something for the party to meet its burden of proof and win the case.

As she is not yet completely familiar with the new policy, Smith does not want to state an opinion. However, that hasn't stopped her from jumping into making improvements where she can.

"She's revamping the materials used for orientation and other lectures on consent to make them more modern," Guidry says of her recent tasks.

S mith anticipates one pillar to be her greatest challenge in her new job: self-care.

"Knowing everything that comes with it is finding new ways to take care of myself with the new stresses that come along with this job."

"It's not that I don't think I can do it," she says. "It's always a process."

Smith often finds herself buried deep in a project and not wanting to take a break.

"My struggle probably will be telling myself, 'Alexis, it's okay to set this aside for a little while. Get yourself together, and come back to it later with a new mindset."

Looking to the future, Smith finds hope in the notion that people increasingly want sexual assault and harassment investigations to be conducted thoroughly, not necessarily quickly, and to consider all sides of an occurrence before investigators reach a consensus and determine the resolution.

"They want to make sure that things are done right for the victim and for the alleged attacker," she says. "They want to see that process is efficient and effective." On the other hand, Smith worries about the prevalence of rape culture and acknowledges that improprieties will always occur regardless of attitude changes.

"As far as Title IX goes and as far as sex discrimination and sexual misconduct go, it's unavoidable," she says. "That worries me. But what gives me hope ... is that it's preventable."

Fresh out of her master's program, Smith knows she may blend in with the student body more than some may like. However, she remains confident that she will achieve at a very high level as the Title IX coordinator.

"I am young," Smith acknowledges.
"Even though I am young and I look young, I know how to do my job. I've been trained. I'm still being trained ... Don't let me being young deter you from coming to me."



Alexis Smith

Title IX Coordinator Director of Student Advocacy 308 Student Union smithal@nsula.edu 318-357-5570

6 ARTS & LIVING FEB. 7, 2018

Symphony to perform Husa, Beethoven

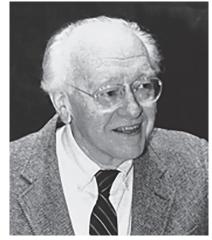
KEATOR POLEMAN *Reporter*

Soviet troops invaded neighboring Czechoslovakia and soon made their way to the capital of Prague in August 1968. As news of the invasion reached composer Karel Husa while he was living in the United States, he began to write what would become "Music for Prague," one of Husa's most well known pieces.

Husa, a native of Prague, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for his piece "String Quartet No. 3," shortly after finishing "Music for Prague." The famed composer passed away in 2016 at 95 years old.

The Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony will perform works by Husa, Beethoven, Humperdinck and more Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall.

Dr. Douglas Bakenhus, professor of music and director of orchestras at Northwestern



Karel Husa Photo courtesy of Cornell University

State, says he was inspired to direct the program after learning of Husa's death, but the concert will not be performed in the late composer's memory.

"Music for Prague" links together several components, including "Ye Warriors of God and His Law," a piece dating back to the 15th century that has been used by other Czechoslovakians in their own pieces.

"[The song has been] a symbol

of resistance and hope for hundreds of years, whenever fate lay heavy on the Czech nation," according to the performance program. "The beginning of this religious song is announced very softly in the first movement by the timpani and concludes in a strong unison."

The orchestra will also feature Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante," performed by soloists Associate Professor of Music Dr. Andrej Kurti and his wife Sofiko Tchetchelashvili, an adjunct instructor.

Kurti has won several accolades throughout his career including nine first prizes in competitions in Florida, Georgia and Yugoslavia. He was also a finalist for the 1998 Music Teacher National Association Competition.

Tchetchelashvili, performing the viola, has won four national violin contests in the country Georgia and has been awarded two President's Awards, one after another.



The Eyes of Argus

Agrivashun!

ELIZABETH BAILEY

Argus 1979

I hat peepel hoo jeast kant spel, Who putt a tee ensted of a ell, End tri end sown the werd out.

I hat peepel hoo jest kant rite, Hoo strugel and strugel wit al thar mite, To rite won singel werd.

To tri end desyfer skribels and skrawls Will driv me rite own up the wals Kriing end puling my hayr out!

Whin I sea al thoze mispeled werds
End brochen konjunkshuns and misuzed vurbs,
I thenk, "Egad, how gud thay wud bee
If onley thay wud have lerned frum me!"

Local krewe gets city into Mardi Gras spirit

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Managing Editor

Laissez les bons temps rouler.

It's Mardi Gras season, which means flying beads, flashy gowns, decorative floats and sweet King Cakes are back once again.

Every year during the months of January and February, thousands of people flock to the major cities and towns of the Bayou State hoping to walk away with a bagful of beads and good memories.

It is through the adrenaline rush that both visitors and natives of Louisiana sometimes forget, or do not truly realize, what all goes on behind the glitz and glam of the decorative floats and flashy balls.

The Krewe of Dionysos, a Natchitoches-based krewe, has been celebrating Mardi Gras with the public since 1995.

This year's captain of the krewe is C. C. "Pete" Johnson, who has been a member of Dionysos since 2004.

Johnson has been part of the krewe's royalty since 2006 where he first held the title of duke before he was named captain for the past two years. In

that role, he conducts meetings with the krewe's Board of Directors and oversees the day-to-day operations.

"A lot of work goes into being captain," he says. "You have to go out and represent the krewe all the time. Sometimes you have to go do a radio or TV commercial, but it's not something I'm the best at."

Johnson mentioned that the krewe does more than just throw parties.

"We do some good deeds," the krewe captain said.

Each year, the krewe sets aside roughly \$1,500 to donate to five different charities in and around the city of Natchitoches. Each charity receives a donation of \$300. Some of these charities include the Lion's Club and the Natchitoches Humane Society.

One of this year's "most gratifying things" they did, as Johnson said, is when the krewe sent Mardi Gras beads overseas to American troops so the troops could have a taste of home.

Another way in which the krewe impacts the local community is through their biggest event of the year, the Mardi Gras parade.

"As long as the weather is good, the crowds have increased [each year],"



he said. "It is also a plus for the city of Natchitoches that we have this parade because there's so much revenue coming in."

This revenue in part comes from people coming from out of town to enjoy this family-oriented parade, along with people going out to eat and shop that day.

Even though the krewe makes good donations in the community, Dionysos still has their own struggles which comes in the form of membership recruitment, most of which is done through word of mouth.

"We try to maintain around 200

people for us to accomplish the goals we want to accomplish," he said. "We lose members, and we gain them."

Anyone can join the Krewe of Dionysos, and Johnson said it is a "bargain" when comparing prices of the Natchitoches krewe to those down south. Membership information can be found on their website at www. kreweofdionysos.org

The Krewe of Dionysos will hit the streets and listen to shouts of "Throw me somethin', mister" on Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. The route begins on South Drive, continues onto Front Street and ends southbound on Church Street.

FEB. 7, 2018 SPORTS 7

Track and Field to face last pre-Conference meet

BRIAN JORDAN

Contributing Writer

With one of the largest indoor track meets looming with the Tyson Invitational in Arkansas Feb. 9-10 and then a weeklong break before the Southland Conference Indoor Championships on Feb. 21-22, the NSU Demon Track and Field athletes are continuing to work toward the NCAA championships.

The Pittsburg State Invitational on Jan. 27 was a considerable success with four top-25 performances in the nation and seven first-place wins by NSU competitors.

"We had a lot of great performances; our sprinters had a phenomenal meet," Head Coach Mike Heimerman said. "Some felt like they could've had a better meet, but they're still leading the conference in the event. All we're doing is try to progress each meet leading up to conference. It was a great measuring stick, and I like where we're at."

Sophomore Micah Larkins had tremendous success posting the fifth-fastest 60-meter dash in the nation and third fastest of all time in the Southland Conference



Photo by Jameria Smith

Sprinter Natashia Jackson (center) finished first and second in the 400 meter and 60 meter dashes, respectively, at the Pittsburg State Invitational on Jan. 27. She did not compete in the Feb. 2 meet at LSU.

this season with a 6.63 first-place finish.

Larkins' success didn't end there, however, as he posted the 19th-best NCAA Division I time in the 200 meter with a 21.13 second-place finish.

"I never expect to win," Larkins said. "I'm going with the flow, staying humble. Whatever God allows me to do, that's what I'm going to do."

"We had quite a few great performances, led by Micah Larkins," Heimerman said. "I can't wait until outdoor to see Larkins takeoff."

Junior Daeshon Gordon ran the country's 20th-best 60-meter hurdles time at 8.25. Demons' sophomore Quindarrius Thompson won the men's triple jump with a 51-1 leap that ranks 23rd nationally.

NSU's other first-place finishes came from Lady Demons senior De'Shalyn Jones as she ran a 24.24 finish in the 200, sophomore Natashia Jackson with a 55.38 in the 400 and Demons' sophomore Tre' Evans posting a 6-8 ¼ in the high jump.

"I can't take everything for just for myself; it was all to my team," Jackson said on her win. "Throughout the week, training with the team helps improve everything you would like to do."

Heading into the Feb. 2 LSU meet, Demons Larkins and Amir James were announced to have the day off, as well as Lady Demons Jackson and Jones.

"This gives opportunity to some of the kids who haven't gotten to compete yet," Heimerman said.

Daeshon Gordon managed to take the only first-place win of the day in the 60-meter hurdles (8.44).

NSU also managed to take three second-place wins with Tyrin Tucker in shot put (16.63m), Tre' Evans in the men's high jump and Ceaser Stephens in the men's triple jump (15.35m).

This Friday and Saturday the team will head to the Randal Tyson Track Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas, for the Tyson Invitational, one of the biggest meets in indoor track and field, which attracts high caliber athletes, including Olympic and World medalists.

"Arkansas is a big meet for us; it's a good measuring stick to see where we're at going into conference," Heimerman said. "I hope the men and women battle for top-three performances. We'll have to have everyone's best."

"I'm really excited; it's my first time going there," Natashia Jackson said. "Last year I had hopes as a freshman, but this year it's a whole new ball game."

Miller consistently leads Lady Demon Basketball

HOLLY JENKINS
Reporter

After suffering several losses, one thing that persists for the Lady Demon Basketball team is the dedication and hard work players put in. Week after week, they continue competing with high spirits, win or lose.

One of these players is business administration major Victoria Miller.

Although only a sophomore, Miller is no weak link. Assistant Sports Information Director Jason Pugh said Miller is one of the most consistent players on the team – a statement proven true by her game statistics.

According to NSU Athletics, this season alone, Miller has scored an average of 4.5 points per game and has an average of 3.1 rebounds and 1.4 steals per game.

The successful forward and center says she has been playing basketball for as long as she can remember; this love allowed her to continue playing in high school and earn a scholarship to play for NSU.

Among the things she loves most about playing for NSU are the support from the fans and team and "the feeling" while on the court.

In January 2017, Miller suffered an injury – a dislocated shoulder – that

rendered her unable to finish last year's season.

"Not being able to participate was challenging," she says. "I hated not being able to be with my team, but I didn't let that discourage me. I just kept putting in hard work where I could and waiting to be able to play again."

This year, Miller says she is more confident and vocal.

"Even though this has been a tough season for the team, I really think we can still come together and turn things around. We're not lacking for talent."

Things aren't always so serious for the Lady Demons, though. Whenever they have a free moment, Miller says they like to joke

around and make fun of each other – in a positive way, of course.

"We're really just a big family when it comes down to it," she says.

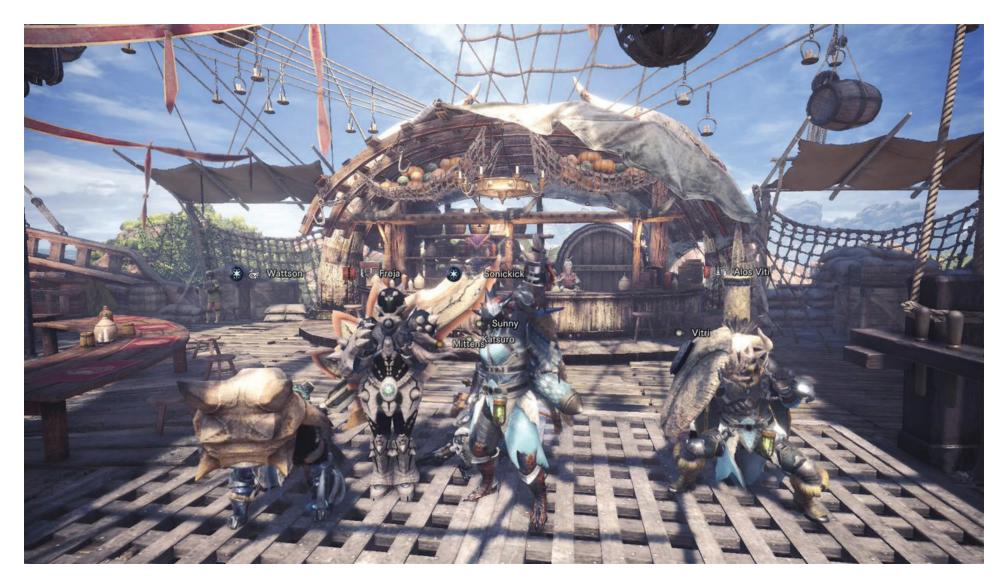
The team can fight its way into the Southland Conference Tournament, but their current 12th-place rank will make it tough to make the cut with seven games remaining.

Approaching the end season play, the Lady Demons will face the Lamar Cardinals Feb. 7, the Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks Feb. 10 and the Houston Baptist Huskies Feb. 14 before returning to the home court Feb. 21 to play the University of Incarnate Word Cardinals.



Photo by Sean McC Victoria Miller signals to a teammate.

dy he eb. tin he ies 8 OPINION FEB. 7, 2018



'Monster Hunter: World' fast-paced, beginner-friendly

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Opinion Columnist

There is no such feeling like being a hunter in "Monster Hunter." The repetitive cycle of eating, gathering, hunting and crafting might be intimidating, but to me it's one of the few games that makes that experience so much fun that I want to come back again and again.

The newest entry in the franchise, "Monster Hunter: World" continues this but accomplishes it smoothly, making it the best entry in this long running series.

"Monster Hunter: World" is the first title in the current generation of consoles and has been in development for four years on a new engine. Previous entries have been relegated to portable consoles, but now the series is finally back at its proper home.

Aesthetically, the game itself is gorgeous. It's the best-looking entry in the series with detailed graphics,

exciting set pieces, beautiful locales and includes unique but ferocious looking monsters.

To those new to the concept of "Monster Hunter," the game is structured like a series of boss fights with massive monsters that you and three other friends can hunt down and kill for new equipment and gear.

For some players trying to jump into each iteration, it can be very difficult to learn how the game works. "World" is more beginner-friendly to new players by teaching the game as it progresses, but it also gets into the fun of the game much faster than ever before.

Most of the mechanics from previous games have been streamlined, creating less downtime between the exploring and hunting parts of the game.

Speaking of exploration, "World" does away with the loading area system that has been there since the series started and instead has one

large continuous zone that has no loading times between each area.

New to "Monster Hunter: World" is the scoutflies, which help to highlight certain objects in the area that can help find items, or track a monster. They attach to footprints, scratch marks and mucus, and will track the monster to lead you to it. This system is a lot more helpful rather than just going in blind and memorizing the same areas said monster would appear in.

Once you track down your monster, it's time to fight, and the combat in "World" is awesome.

"Monster Hunter" is known for giving the player various types of weapons to play with and each one plays differently than one another. Most of the time when selecting a new weapon, it's almost like you are playing a completely different game! The fun part of it is finding the weapons that adjust to your play style.

Fighting monsters in the

game is a lot more satisfying due to the slick animations, crunchy sound design and the thrill of fighting a ginormous beast. You have to find what weapon is effective against each part of the monster, how to effectively strike it to knock it down or which part to focus on to get rare material.

With you and your friends, this type of game will get chaotic. You will be fighting a few of the same monsters multiple times, but each time, you learn about the monster and how to strategically kill it.

You take those parts and craft new items, weapons and armor while continuing to get stronger. It's the charm of the series and, as stated before, makes it so much fun.

Despite this, "World" isn't a perfect game.

My first problem came with online play in the first couple of days. For some reason I was unable to connect to a few of my friends online that I wanted to play with and on launch

it was worse. Luckily the game has been subsequently patched since then, but I'm still unable to connect with one of my friends.

My other problem stems from the story mode.

World now has a cinematic story mode that is new to the franchise, but it isn't groundbreaking or worth mentioning. Each mission can now be played together with friends, but you have to start the mission and get to a certain point to watch a cinematic before they can join the quest. It's a very annoying process that should have been done differently.

Either way, I am enjoying "Monster Hunter: World." It is the perfect entry for new players to jump into while keeping what made "Monster Hunter" fun without diluting the mechanics.

I highly recommend you grab three other friends and explore the new world of a rich ecosystem, terrifying beasts, and adorable cats that cook your fulfilling meals for you.



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Black Lives Matter figure to lecture

KEATOR POLEMAN *Reporter*

ALEC HORTON

Fditor-in-Chief

Some people believe the United States has long moved past the civil rights battles of the 1960s; others believe the fight is ongoing. Shaun King, a writer and activist, will give a lecture entitled "Civil Rights Today: The New Civil Rights Movement" to share his views on the issue.

King was unavailable for an interview prior to the event.

A well-known, yet controversial, figure in the Black Lives Matter movement, King sees racism as "a mutating virus, and one that manifests in different forms in every age," according to his website. He occasionally appears on TV and other media and as a commentator on The Young Turks to advocate for social justice.

But as a leader of social activism groups "Justice. That's All." and "Justice Together,"



King's own volunteers grew frustrated with his alleged minimal presence and action.

JT30, an assembly of 30 former state directors for Justice Together, accused him of lacking transparency and employing the delay tactics they were meant to be combating, failing to delegate responsibilities and only using volunteers to draw attention to his personal brand rather than influence change before Justice Together's "abrupt end."

"We held a great deal of respect for Shaun King," wrote JT30. "Honestly, we are grateful that King launched Justice Together, because *Photo courtesy of shaunking.org* without that step, we would not have connected as a team.

"Ultimately King is a great reporter and motivator, but he lacks the necessary skills to lead a platform like Justice Together."

Having accomplished little, some would say, the organization shuttered. King refunded money that had been raised for their efforts, despite reports from Fox News and Bill O'Reilly to the contrary.

Outlets such as Breitbart and the Blaze in 2015 accused King of lying about his race and about being a hate crime victim. In a CNN report, King said he was assaulted in 1995

by what he called a "racist mob of rednecks" and spent more than a year in recovery afterward.

A family member of King's told Don Lemon of CNN that the "altercation was about him being a white guy dating a black girl," though King still maintains it was a hate crime.

These experiences and more led King to social media prominence, speaking engagements on college campuses nationwide, guest editorial opportunities and radio and TV appearances. From August 2014 to December 2015, King said he accepted no speaking fees.

To hear the award-winning activist as a part of NSU's recognition of Black History Month, come to the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

Civil Rights Today: The New Civil Rights Movement

Feb. 26, 6 p.m. A.A. Fredericks Auditorium

SGA Minutes: Higher education, TOPS in danger

JORDAN REICH

President Tre Nelson emphasized the current political climate in Louisiana and possible budget cuts to higher education and the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students.

"There's a very high chance that either TOPS or higher education will be cut in the next year," Nelson said. "If higher education is cut, that's actually a much more dangerous, [very] slippery slope we're dealing with."

TOPS and higher education are back on the chopping block due to the state budget shortfall. Funding for TOPS was renewed in 2017, but only for one year, and higher education has time and time again faced state funding cuts.

Gov. John Bel Edwards called for a 17-day special session which began Feb. 19 to discuss the proposed state budget and in attempt to negotiate.

The LA Board of Regents Council of Student Body Presidents, which Nelson and SGA Sen. Jacob Ellis met with this past weekend, discussed a student-led letter writing campaign to legislators.

This council also created a resolution insisting the legislature fund higher education and TOPS, hoping to "initiate the era of reinvestment in higher education with a focus on long-term sustainability."

Edwards was sent the resolution and took to Twitter to thank the presidents for their work.

"Let's get the job done right," he tweeted. "And let's get it done right now."

"[This is] affecting all of our futures," Nelson said. "[We need to say] 'Hey, don't cut higher education; we're the future of this state."

The University of Louisiana System Day will be held April 11 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; the event serves as rally for higher education. More details will become available for students interested in attending.

Police Blotter

February 8

Suspicious Person 1159 hours Student Union Student playing a prank

February 9

Disturbance 1311 hours University Place I

February 13

Theft 1720 hours WRAC

February 14

Disturbance 0101 hours University Place II Unfounded

Disturbance

0126 hours University Place II Parties separated

Poorly-rated Follett to operate new bookstore

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Reporter

Barnes & Noble will no longer manage the Student Union bookstore as of Feb. 16. Follett Corporation has been selected as its replacement to open in a renovated building on University Parkway now occupied by Neebo.

"Northwestern State University Foundation acquired this property directly across the street from the campus," NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio said in a Feb. 14 press "The partnership release between Northwestern, the NSU Foundation and Follett will create a dynamic and high-quality Campus Store experience for the university and community for years to

An 8000-square-foot area is planned to provide NSU with a one-stop shopping facility on University Parkway for books, supplies, NSU-branded merchandise and fast food, including Chick-fil-A.

According to the press release, "Follett Corporation is the world's largest single source of books, entertainment products, digital content and multimedia for libraries, schools and retailers."

But some consumers don't hold Follet in high regard and have voiced their opinions on popular review site Yelp. The company has an average one-star rating based on 16 reviews.

Users nationwide report low-quality books that are refused for replacement, overpriced books compared to competitors such as Amazon, a questionable buyback service and several complaints of an ambiguous \$1 surcharge.

The only response was to the \$1 charge, to which an employee of Follett listed as Ericka L. responded with this: "Any time a customer uses a credit card on their bookstore's website, we authorize the card for \$1. It's the lowest amount we can run as a pre-authorization to make sure the card is valid. You may notice this often happens at gas stations and restaurants.

"The dollar is not actually charged to the customer and it will just appear as a pending amount, eventually dropping off of the account entirely. You'll see this dollar authorization on your account even if the order does not completely go through. The pending authorization will drop off of your account within three to five business days."

During Barnes & Noble's absence, students are encouraged to use Neebo across the street from Watson Memorial Library until Feb. 27. The new facility is planned for a fall 2018 opening.

FEB. 21, 2018 SPORTS 3



Softball Captains' Meeting

March 1, 7:30 p.m. WRAC Classroom

Softball Season

March 12-April 11 Intramural Softball Fields

Demon Trivia

March 13, 8 p.m. Student Union Ballroom

Whiffle Ball

March 20-22, 3-5 p.m. WRAC Gyms

Home Run Derby

March 27, 8 p.m. Lady Demon Softball Field

Quidditch

April 16-18, 3-5 p.m. President's Field

LCIRSA State Tournament

April 27-29 SLU

RECYs Sports Banquet

May 1, 6 p.m. Student Union Ballroom

WRAC

For more information, contact Jason Stelly at 318-357-5341 or at stellyj@nsula.edu.



New soccer coaches Anna and Jess Jobe present at the signing day luncheon.

Photo by Gary Hardamon

Soccer, football sign impressive recruits

BRIAN JORDAN

Contributing Writer

The annual Northwestern State signing day luncheon was held Feb. 7, and three new coaches from two different Demon sports revealed their signees, wowing the crowd with their strong rosters.

New co-head soccer coaches Jess and Anna Jobe took the stage and got the event underway. The soccer team brought in a 10-member group in the Jobes' first signing class.

"These players have strong backgrounds with their clubs, and their experience leads us to believe that they'll fit in well here and come in and compete," Jess Jobe said. "We're excited to get them here early so they can get acclimated and hit the ground running this August."

The Jobes emphasized signing players with immediate impact, and the roster includes athletes from Florida, Louisiana, Texas and international students from Canada.

"They'll make up nearly a third of our roster, so they'll play a big part," Jess Jobe said. "This group has a chance to write a really cool story being our first recruiting class, to be our first four-year group."

New football head coach Brad Laird took the stage next, prepared to deliver on the "#SpeedDemon" hype he and his coaching staff have promoted since taking the academics and eventually positions. walking across that stage

As they debuted 25 new recruits, they showed off highlight reels of multiple players sprinting past competitors. Many are considered for state championship sprinting honors or are considered contenders for top honors this spring.

"We see this group as 25-strong," Laird said. "You look at these 25 and see length, see speed, and you see athleticism. We were able to do that across the board, offensively and defensively.

"We looked at needs for this football team as we began this process and we were able to answer those needs."

NSU added 11 offensive players: three linemen, three receivers, two quarterbacks, two running backs and a tight end. On the defensive end, they added six defensive backs, five linebackers and three defensive linemen.

"They said they wanted me on the field come September," said Coby McGee, wide receiver signee from Bossier City's Airline High School. "Honestly that's how I see it. I just know I have to put the work in for good things to come out."

When meeting with family and prospects, Laird commented on a consistent theme of community present in Natchitoches and at NSU.

"They realize first and foremost it's about the

academics and eventually walking across that stage at commencement with a diploma, and second it's about being productive on the field," Laird said.

"It felt like home," McGee said. "It felt like I could be trusted with them, and they had the best interest and heart for me."

Offensive Coordinator Brad Smiley and Defensive Coordinator Mike Lucas both frequently mentioned how the signees will make an immediate impact on the program with their high levels of performance.

Laird talked about another component important in bringing in the impressive new recruits:

"Competition," he said.
"We talk about it as a staff, bringing in guys to compete, and we've done that with this class.

"Whether you're a senior or a freshman, competition will bring out the best in all of us, and we're bringing in guys to compete to get out on the field and win championships."

"I have a chance to fight for a position – someone who can make a difference in the game," McGee said. "My work ethic, my talent and understanding of the game should separate me."

The Demon football team will start their official 2018 season in September at Texas A&M University. The full schedule can be viewed online at nsudemons.com.



ECURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Demon Dodgeball faced off against Georgia Southern University and the University of North Georgia at the Mardi Gras Madness Tournament Feb. 17. Captain Casey Alfultis says the team was excited to host the tournament since they haven't been able to compete as much this academic year.

Though the Demons lost their four back-to-back matches, President Katie Rayburn says they needed the playing experience and are still proud to have organized the tournament itself.

"We were outnumbered and had less experience than the other [teams], but we still held our own against well-practiced and well-organized teams," she says.

Similar to other club sports on campus, students do not need prior experience to join the dodgeball team and can join at any time.

"It's a good excuse to get active, [especially] if you can't be in a [NCAA] college sport," Alfultis says.

Rayburn says there are

opportunities to learn the different positions on the team, each having strategic importance, such as the following: blockers, catchers and heavy hitters.

"Playing for a full 45 minutes is tiring," she says, and that people who claim dodgeball isn't a sport "clearly haven't played."

The team will travel to the National Collegiate Dodgeball Association national tournament April 20-22, 2018, in Richmond, Virginia.

Demon Quidditch, which derives from the fictional sport in the "Harry Potter" series, functions as both a club sport and social club at NSU.

Though they are not a member institution of the U.S. Quidditch league, the team still competes against regional teams such as Stephen F. Austin State University and in tournaments in Baton Rouge.

Rhiannon Venable, president and sophomore secondary education major, urges students who may be interested to attend a meeting. They not only focus on the sport aspect and team business but try to make meetings fun with games and other activities.

Though quidditch may look physically difficult, Venable says, it is not as tough as it seems.

"I'm not really that athletic, and I have a blast," she says. "For me, in my freshman year, it was like the only socialization I had. It's a great medium for a lot of people to just get out of their dorm every week."

Venable's role as president has been a large commitment in conjunction with her education major requirements, so she looks forward to seeing members at meetings each week.

"It's a great way to hang out with people that I wouldn't be able to see otherwise," she says.

Demon Quidditch meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in Room 320 of the Friedman Student Union.



THERE'S A GUD FOR TIAN By Jordan Reich, Associate Editor

Club sports at NSU are no strangers to competition. Separate from NCAA-affiliated collegiate sports, club sports on campus range in variety from rowing to ping pong, and some compete in regional and national tournaments.



The Ping Pong Club, new on the club sports scene at NSU, was created last semester by freshman Micheal Weaver. He emphasizes that you do not have to have any prior experience to join or have to be particularly athletic – one of the reasons he was drawn to it in the first place.

"It's a sport that you don't have to be strong or fast or tall to play. It's something that anybody can be good at," the

president says. "If you don't have experience, we want you [to join] even more."

Weaver says the club is more than just hitting ping pong balls across a table.

"You learn a little bit about yourself [through ping pong]; you really do," he says. "Each time you play, you take something and learn from it ... It's about improving yourself and taking that improvement

and implying it into other areas of your life."

The club has yet to set up official competitions but holds practices at the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity house or the WRAC on Tuesday and Thursday around 5-6 p.m. Weaver has goals to spread ping pong not just on campus but to other schools in the region for those that don't already have existing teams.

Demon Crew was created in 1988 by Dr. Lisa Wolffe and has been an active organization ever since, practicing on Cane River and Chaplin's Lake and spending time on rowing machines in preparation for competition.

President Stewart Sloan says he was inspired to join Crew before he was even in college; his high school fencing instructor rowed at NSU during his time on campus in the '90s.

Senior rower Glory Deaton's experience joining Crew was quite different than Sloan's. She says she was never an athlete before she joined in the second semester of her freshman year but now "wouldn't trade it for anything."

"Wouldn't trade it for anything."

"It's so worth it," she says. "I've made so many good friends ... and you get to travel to so many cool places.

"Being in the boat [is] very calming. When the oar hits the water and when the boat is perfectly in sync, and y'all are just feeling the rhythm of the boat together ... you have that perfect balance, [and] it's just – you get chills."

The rowing team will host a tournament March 10 in downtown Natchitoches. Both Deaton and Sloan encourage students and community members alike to support Crew and attend the competition.

Students can join Crew at the beginning of each semester and have a two-week period to test out how they like the sport.



The NSU Fishing team ranked second in the nation according to Cabela's School of the Year on Feb. 6. The team competed at the Texas Lunker Challenge Feb. 11 where Dustin Nash placed third overall with his 6.55 pound catch.

With more than 200 athletes competing, Logan Laprarie ranked 23rd; Gregory Green, 32nd; Jake Roberts, 61st; Ethan Howe, 69th; and Johnny Ledet, 82nd. Kyle McAllen, Tanner Mizell, Kreston Phelps and Branndon Pope also competed in the tournament.

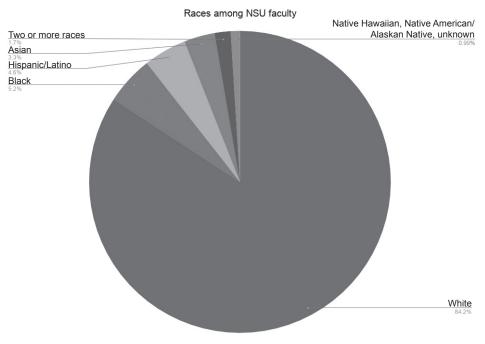


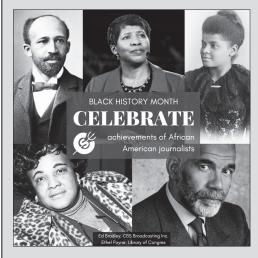
The Archers' Association, though not currently active, seeks to provide students with a safe learning environment in which they can practice archery techniques.

Students interested in creating a club sport that is not currently offered can do so by following the steps laid out in the Club Sports handbook, online at wrac. nsula.edu/club-sports/

Along with club sports, the WRAC also offers intramural activities. The spring 2018 schedule can be found online at imleagues.com/NSULA

6 ARTS & LIVING FEB. 21, 2018





Visit the Friedman Student Union today from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. to learn about prominent African-American journalists.

Faculty lacking in diversity

ZOE ALMARAZReporter

With growing minority populations across the U.S., Northwestern State University seems to fall flat with regards to faculty diversity.

"That has been something brought up by other faculty members and students multiple times since I've been here," said Brittany Broussard, coordinator for the Center for Inclusion and Diversity and member of the University Diversity Committee.

Broussard, instructor of psychology and adviser for African-American Caucus, has noticed the diversity among faculty members in all categories is minimal

A report from the Human Resources department in 2016 broke down the ethnicities of tenured, on tenured track, multiyear contract, annual contract, less-than-annual contract and indefinite duration contract faculty members. This document was based on a survey created by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, a system designed to gather information for the United States Department of Education through the Nation Center for Education Statistics.

In the tenured section, the results show there are 150 total tenured professors, 67 male and 83 female. Across the

male category there are three Hispanic/Latino associate professors, one Asian professor, two Asian associate professors and one professor and one associate professor who identify as two or more races.

Comparatively for women, there is one professor, an associate and one assistant who identify as Hispanic/Latina, one Native American/Alaskan Native, one Asian assistant professor, one black professor, two black associate professors and one black assistant professor.

This is just a small portion of the data presented in the survey, but the overall trends are similar. Across all the previously mentioned categories, there are 303 professors: 123 men and 180 women.

Sixteen are black, 14 are Hispanic/Latino, 10 are Asian, five identify as two or more races, one is Native American/ Alaskan Native, one is Native Hawaiian and one is unknown.

With a subject like diversity, it can be difficult to see the line between being inclusive, having token people and trying to overdiversify in an attempt to appear socially aware to prospective students. Broussard suggests actively recruiting in places outside the southern U.S. and seeking out different types of professors.

She also suggested having more open discussions and education for faculty about diversity as well as diverse curriculums, such as African-American studies, gender studies, classes on different religions and more.

"University Diversity Committee will be meeting soon to go over the results of that student climate survey we sent out last semester," Broussard said. These results will show how a portion of the students feel about the campus.

Dr. J. Andrew Briseño described his experience as an interracial Chicano, a person of Mexican descent born in the U.S.

"Individuals of interracial Mexicans, such as myself, are clearly identified as a third racial group," he said.

Briseño talked about the difference between races and how they are treated, especially in smaller towns mostly made up of Mexicans, while the line is blurred in larger and more diverse cities.

While Briseño specifically talked about his own experience, this sentiment can be applied to other racial groups. This idea is something to think about when looking at race, especially among faculty to ensure people are being represented no matter how dark or light their skin is.



The Eyes of Argus

Explain Home

LESLIE ANNE GREGORY

Argus 1985

If I could give to you these hills on a silver platter John the Baptist style as you have grown accustomed

I would gladly do it If I could make you understand that part of these damn piney woods

Is me

That part of me is their beauty Perhaps you would begin to understand These skies you think duller than those you call your own

Trees you find all the same to eyeball Red dirt that you find too horrible to seed with yourself

Grassy knobbed land you cannot bear to drive Are mine

Only to you do these hills sleep

If I could open you to them
To needles against rose-ocre horizonless sunsets
Water-flows as red as the banks they wash
Rising and falling scapes whose turns breathlessly roll

If I could show you how to become one with Land so wanting of you
I would gladly do it.

FEB. 21, 2018 ARTS & LIVING 7



'Yakuza 0': plot, gameplay, soundtrack make a strong prequel

ANTHONY RENTERIA
Opinion Columnist

Note: A digital copy was provided by SEGA.

One of the biggest sleeper hits in the gaming industry is the "Yakuza" series. The series has seven main titles and additional spin offs that have captivated many players for the story, gameplay or silly things you can do in the game. In early 2017, SEGA of America brought "Yakuza 0" over to the west, which is hands down the best game in the series so far and should not be missed.

"Yakuza 0" is a prequel game that takes place before the events of the first game in the series. The stage is set during the late 1980s in Japan's "bubble" era when stock prices were greatly inflated and people were throwing money around like it was nothing.

In the game, you play as younger versions of main protagonist Kazuma Kiryu and fan favorite Goro Majima; they have their own stories about how they became the legends they are known in the later titles.

You switch between them every two chapters, and their stories come together as the game progresses.

Both stories are cohesive and perfectly tie together, not only making sense as a game, but as a prequel to the original "Yakuza" game. Newcomers can enjoy the story as their first entry, and long-time fans can appreciate the callbacks and references to other games in the series.

It's a story that you must see to the end. Both characters go through so many trials and tribulations that it's satisfying to see how they grow into the characters fans know them as now.

The game in motion on PlayStation 4 runs with a 1080p resolution at 60 fps, but it isn't graphically intense. The game originally came out in Japan on the PlayStation 3, so you aren't going to find any groundbreaking areas, but you will have smooth gameplay.

Despite that, character models have a lot of detail placed into them. Some characters in the game are based off the real voice actors

playing them, and seeing those beat-up looking faces in an extreme close-up shot during an animated cutscene is a treat.

There is some slight screen tearing when exploring the town, but this is barely noticeable and doesn't effect the core combat in any way, which is great since I love the gameplay of "0."

There is a common misconception when people see the "Yakuza" games thinking that it's some sort of Japanese "Grand Theft Auto." This is not the case, as the games are more like an open-district game where you explore a small town, partake in fun activities and get into brawls with street punks, thugs and of course, Yakuza.

The combat is so fluid and over the top, and it's a blast to mess around with.

Kiryu and Majima are each given three unique styles that players can use to take out enemies in glorious spectacle. Kiryu has access to a basic brawler style that is less refined than previous games: a fast-moving style called rush that allows him

to bob and weave around attacks and go for counter hits, and a slow but deadly beast style that allows him to pick up heavy objects like motorcycles during a combo and demolish anything that gets in his way.

Majima has a thug style simular to Kiryu's brawler style, but it has his own perks: the slugger style which takes his iconic bat and puts it to use in very unique ways, and an unexpected but silly breaker style where Majima busts a move and break dances all over everyone in hilarious ways.

I found myself switching between each style during combat to make sure each fight never became repetitive. This allowed me to experiment with each style, and you will need each one for different situations.

When switching styles, the music will change to accommodate the feeling of each one. The music of "Yakuza 0" really is incredible. Every tune is memorable, used effectively and knows exactly when to drop the beat when serious events are going down.

Other than brawls you can get into when you aren't experiencing the story, there's an abundance of extra content you can peruse while exploring the town. There are 100 crazy side stories you can get into, such as impersonating a movie producer, shaping tax policies for the future, training a dominatrix or defending "Miracle Johnson" from a zombie army.

There is also an abundance of mini games you will find which include Disco, Karaoke, Baseball or playing arcade classics such as "Out Run" or "Space Harrier." There is so much to do that even I haven't found everything!

"Yakuza 0" is a title that I have wanted to play for a while, and it exceeded my expectations. This is a title that I recommend most people to jump in with as their first "Yakuza" game. You will not be disappointed, and you will have hours of fun experiencing the crime of the "Yakuza" underworld and partaking in '80s style Japanese nightlife.

Active Shooter WHAT TO DO

Avoid

- Find the nearest and safest exit.
- Peak around corners to make sure you are not escaping into danger.
- Don't let others enter the danger area.
- Run until you are in a safe area.

Deny

- Lock the door.
- Pile everything in the room in front of any entry doors to barricade yourself in the room.
- Turn off the lights and hide behind objects that will completely cover you.
- Keep quiet and silence your cell phone.
 Turn off any device that may make a noise and draw attention to you.

Defend

- If the shooter comes into your room do everything you can to survive.
- Use whatever you can to defend yourself.
- Use improvised weapons that could be used for defense (computers, laptops, fire extinguishers, chairs, book bags.)
- Try to get others involved so that you can outnumber the shooter.

universitypolice.nsula.edu/active-shooter

Call University Police at (318) 357-5431 or 911
Try to provide as much information as possible.

Ⅲ | NORTHWESTERN STATE

LOCKDOWN Procedures

Classroom

- Lock and/or barricade the door(s).
- Turn the lights out in the classroom.
- Close the blinds, and cover any windows that may be in the room (including door glass).
- Move away from the doors and windows.
- Stay in the room until an ALL CLEAR is given by Purple Alert.

Apartment/Dorm Room

- Lock your door immediately.
- Keep quiet and silence your cell phone.
 Turn off any device that may make a noise and draw attention to you.
- Close the blinds.
- Move away from doors and windows.
- Stay in your apartment or room until the ALL CLEAR is given by Purple Alert.

Office

- Lock and/or barricade the door(s).
- Keep quiet and silence your cell phone.
 Turn off any device that may make a noise and draw attention to you.
- Close the blinds.
- Move away from the doors and windows. If there is a centralized location in the building that can be locked, go to that area—be sure all doors are locked.
- Remain in the room until you are given the ALL CLEAR.

If the order is issued to LOCKDOWN and you are not in a building or office area, go to the closest office area or building and lockdown with that department.

Call University Police at (318) 357-5431 or 911
Try to provide as much information as possible.



NEWS

Bossier students now able to receive special scholarship packages

FEATURE

Hailing from Serbia, Dr. Andrej Kurti calls Natchitoches home

SPORTS

Russian student athlete describes challenges in U.S.

ARTS&LIVING

Cuban native Llanes gives art students tips on career planning



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New features include...

- Improved mobile and desktop viewing
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- RSS feeds for official **NSU** press releases
- KNWD live stream



Photos by Karalee Scouten

FILE - Attendees at the 2017 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival dance to one of the live performers' music. The annual festival attracts people of all ages in July to celebrate

Police Blotter

February 16

Hit and Run 1358 **PA11**

February 17

Drug Law Violation 0311 hours **University Columns** Arrest made

February 19

Telephone Harassment 1305 hours Caspari Hall

Theft

1405 hours University Place I

February 21

Vehicle Burglary 1911 hours Parking Lot 30

February 22

Unauthorized Entry 2143 hours University Place I

Folklife receives \$10,000 federal grant **JORDAN REICH**

The Louisiana Folklife Center was awarded a \$10,000 Challenge America grant by the National Endowment for the Arts for the third year in a row; the grant will directly finance the 2018 Natchitoches-Northwestern State University Folk Festival.

Associate Editor

The National Endowment for the Arts is a federal government agency that promotes greater accessibility to the arts, primarily through funding projects and providing other resources. Challenge America grant itself is given to smaller organizations across the U.S. in areas that, according to the NEA, "have limited access to the arts..." Under Director Dr. Shane Rasmussen, the Folklife Center has been awarded Challenge America grants every year since 2010, with the exception of 2015.

This marks year Rasmussen's tenth festival



FILE - Food vendors are a major part of the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.

working at the nonprofit, which has been open since 1976. He described the feeling of receiving the grant as "elation and relief."

"We have been very the assistant fortunate," professor of English said.

The Folk Festival, which includes the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship, live music, food, Zydeco dance lessons, and Native American and Hispanic craft makers, aims at bringing the unique cultures and arts of Louisiana to everyday people of all ages.

"[The festival] helps people see the artistry of people's normal lives," he said.

Rasmussen stressed the "face-to-face transmissions" of attending the festival and interaction between generations, as well as interactions with the artists.

"You don't get that enough," Rasmussen said. "But here, we have it all day long. It's all about engagement with the artists."

Though the festival draws a large crowd every year, there are intimate aspects such as small acoustic music sessions, Q&A discussions and craft making with artists.

Receiving the grant shows the festival and artists are the "real deal" of folk culture.

The funding, according to Rasmussen, not only helps with the financial aspects of putting on the festival, but more importantly serves as recognition and validation of folk traditions.

"It also shows that not just people in Louisiana, but people outside of Louisiana are able to appreciate what Louisianians are doing," the California native said.

"You have people here that are tapping into traditions that are hundreds of years old, and yet they're being profoundly influenced by their lives today and their lived experiences," he said. "They're bringing the best of that together to keep their traditions alive in a very vital way."

The Folk Festival will be held July 20-21 in Prather Coliseum.

Folk Festival

July 20-21 **Prather Coliseum** |FEB. 28, 2018

NSU approved to provide dance degree

ZOE ALMARAZ Reporter

Students concentrating or minoring in dance will soon be able to major in this field at Northwestern State University. The University of Louisiana System and the Louisiana Board of Regents approved NSU's letter of intent on Feb. 23 for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, making it the only public university in the state to provide such a program.

A December 2017 NSU press release summarized proposal co-written Director of Dance Associate Professor Kirstin Riehl and Assistant Professor Brett Garfinkel.

"The goal for creating the degree is to prepare students for professional careers in the dance industry," Riehl said.

Some of the program's are to teach students about different techniques for practice and performance, cultural and historical aspects of dance and appreciation for the technical side of performance, such lighting and costuming.

"This is only beginning of the process," said Dr. Greg Handel, dean for the College of Arts and



Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa

NSU's Department of Theatre and Dance will present its second and final weekend run of "The Five Senses," a dance program featuring student performers and faculty choreographers.

begin offering the degree until fall 2019.'

The program is still in the planning stages to determine specific classes to offer, how many new hires are needed and how much additional space is needed.

Alphonse Engram, currently a freshman with a dance concentration, is

Sciences. "We likely won't looking forward to the new program.

> "I just danced before I got here," Engram said. "It's been kind of hard to do theater and dance and get accustomed to everything else that's not in my comfort zone."

> This new program, Engram said, will allow him to focus on his craft. Akin

to music theory classes, dance students will soon be provided with a wellrounded course lineup so they can enter any field related to dance.

The Five Senses

March 1-3, 7:30 p.m. **Theatre West**

Bossier Parish Schools invests in students' futures

HOLLY JENKINS Reporter

Officials from Bossier Parish Schools and Northwestern State University signed

agreement on Feb. 6 called "Imagine the Possibilities," a program that will help Bossier graduates fund their education.

The agreement went into effect this semester, and NSU will visit the parish twice a year to recruit students.

Students who qualify based

on test scores will be able to participate in dual-enrollment courses at NSU and apply for scholarships based on their major.

According to a school board press release, seven majors - biology, business administration, engineering technology, education, nursing, computer information systems and accounting - are highlighted, but students going into different fields could qualify, too.

purpose highlighting certain majors was not to exclude anyone," said Jana Lucky, director

recruiting. "It was based entirely on existing scholarships that are available, and a lot of those tend to be in the math- and science-based fields."

Lucky said this project began two years ago as the "brain child" of DeSoto Parish Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley. With ongoing state budget cuts to higher education, Brumley wanted to help lighten the financial burden for students looking to get a college degree.

DeSoto Parish has partnered with NSU ever since; seeing their success, Bossier Parish Schools decided to follow

in their footsteps. The two parishes are currently the only ones to have such partnerships with NSU.

"Many universities turn down projects like this, but we look at it as a great recruitment opportunity," Dean of Students Frances Conine said. "Recruiting new students is always one of the biggest goals we have at NSU, and this is a win-win because it benefits both parties."

currentsauce.com

Visit our website to view the scholarship packages now offered to prospective students from Bossier Parish.



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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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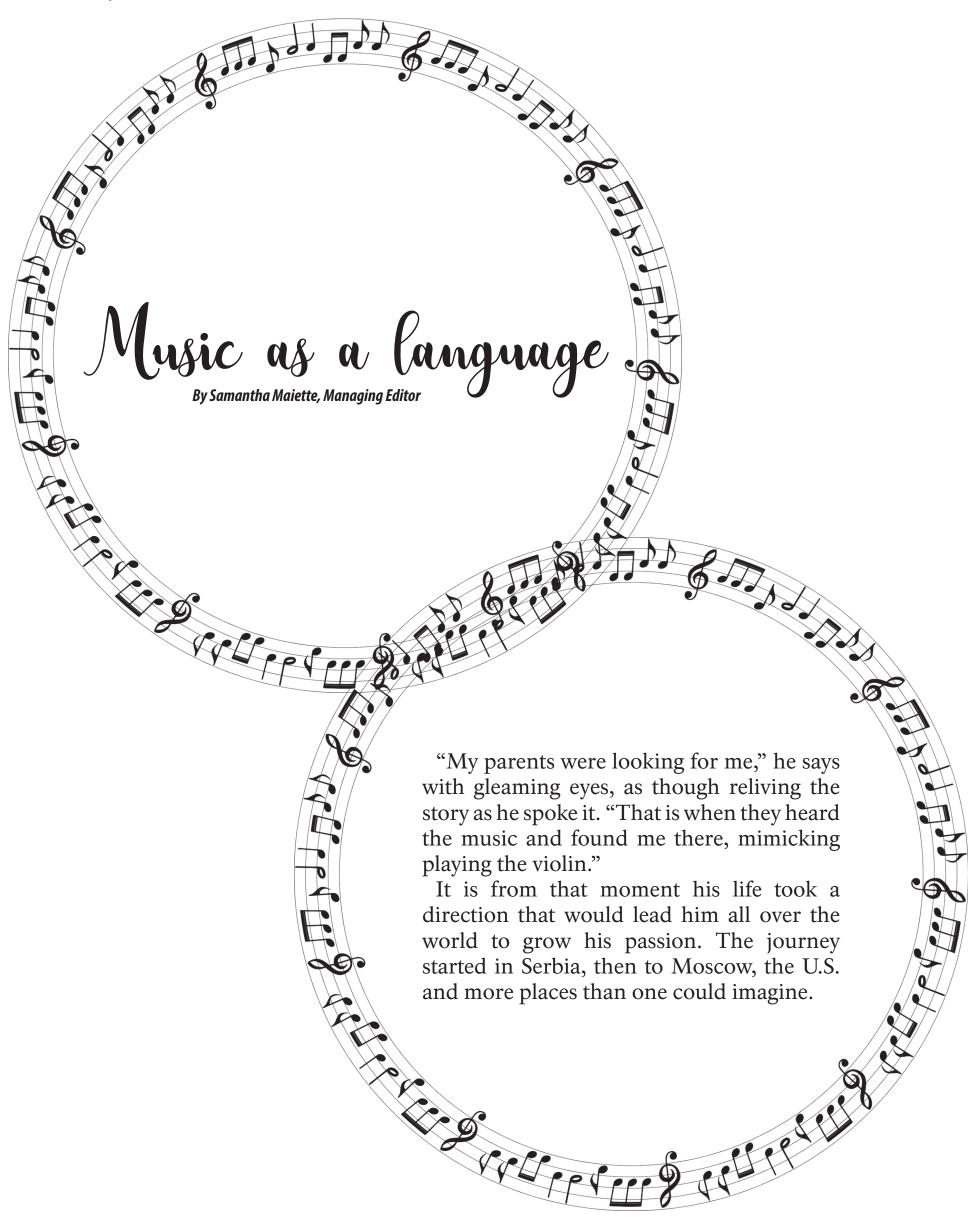




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(318) 357-5456



FINDING A NEW HOME THROUGH MUSIC

Dr. Andrej Kurti, who teaches private lessons to violin and viola students in the School of Creating and Preforming Arts, lays his memories out for all those who enter his third-floor office in 'Old CAPA.'

Covering the long walls are posters of almost every place Kurti has performed, some with text in Eastern European languages, others in English. Some of his shelves hold music books bent back from use and pictures depicting happy memories.

After receiving his doctoral degree, he was on the hunt for a job doing what he loved. It was during this time he had his first interview at Northwestern and fell in love.

"I came here because of the mascot," he jokes. The real reason Kurti signed his name the night that he was interviewed 14 years ago was because he "felt a good connection."

He enjoyed the humor and instant connection with the staff in CAPA. Kurti believes the reason staff get along so well is because of NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and everyone else at the top of the administration ladder.

"It's a top-down effect," he says. "What you see is what you get, and I enjoy that."

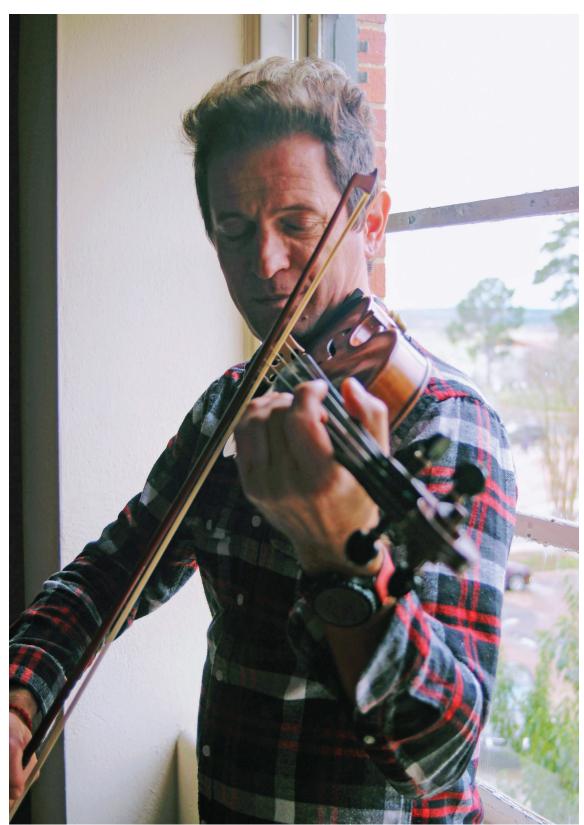
The comradery is not the only thing Kurti enjoys about life in Natchitoches; he says life here is similar to that of his hometown in Serbia, although it is different in some ways.

"It's home," he says of Natchitoches.

Kurti pointed out that life in Serbia did not require a car, whereas he needs one to get around both in Natchitoches and in the U.S.

"I needed people to drive me to the grocery store when I first arrived," he admits.

Kurti had difficulty learning English and would



Dr. Andrej Kurti

often need people to help him translate; this is evident during his lessons when the word he's looking for escapes his mind.

Although he occasionally has trouble explaining his thoughts in English, he needs no help when it comes to teaching his students technical skills and helping them to develop musical expression.

It is through Kurti's hard work and dedication that he was awarded both tenure and the title of full professor.

One could think that by offering tenure that teachers

often stop caring and just do whatever they want. It is a stereotype many students have come to believe.

Kurti believes this stereotype does not apply to him. He explains that some responsibilities have changed, or even increased, from when he started here 14 years ago, but that the title has not changed him.

"I don't think I would work any harder or different now than I did 10 years ago," he says. "Except I'm 10 years more experienced."

Besides teaching private lessons, Kurti helps the department decide on faculty promotions, serves on the faculty senate and on the music business committee and helps music graduate students.

Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa

"I just get busier," he says.

Kurti says he lives a double life of sorts: professor and performer.

"I teach during the day and then go back to practicing later on for upcoming concerts and recordings," he says.

However, this double job has little effect on his passion for teaching and for the NSU community.

"I always tell my students when they walk in on the first



day, 'Whatever I tell you is for your own good,'" he laughs. "We are in the same car and on the same team."

To Kurti, it is important to be just like family to his students because "Love conquers all." That love, he says, enables him to balance his responsibilities along with his wife's responsibilities, who is also a violin and viola teacher at NSU.

"[My students'] success is my happiness," Kurti says. "I want them to come out of Northwestern and be solid in their life."

This is evident as he teaches. He wants them to perform well and explains carefully how to play through a section of music, offering praise and criticism along the way.

"I need to be smart to understand my students – to see their strengths and weaknesses," he says.

"Strengths will always be strengths, but when we take weaknesses and turn them into strengths, that's when we're improving the most." l6 SPORTS

Mutel shares challenges of attending school afar

Contributing Writer

For many students, going to college can feel like entering an entirely new world. It's their first taste of being on their own. maybe they're from a different state or region of the United States and are surprised to hear new dialects or try new foods their new home has to offer, or maybe they're coming from a small town and are surprised to see a bigger college city.

some students, however, it really is like seeing a new planet for the first time. Junior tennis player Polina Mutel hails from Yaroslavl. Russia, and made her first visit to the U.S. when she chose to attend Northwestern State University on a tennis scholarship.

Mutel could barely speak English when she arrived, only taking basic level classes in Yaroslavl.

"I could barely understand anyone. I was just listening and pretending I understood what they [were] saying and didn't want to talk at all," she said. "It took a year and a half, and extra classes with tutors to learn English."

Being on opposite sides of the world, it's no surprise that the cultures of Russia and the U.S. would be vastly

"[The] first thing that



Polina Mutel strikes the tennis ball during the home match against Texas State.

long for me."

The tennis team, as of right now, has only international students on the roster; players come from India, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain and Ukraine. Mutel mentioned that much of the team's cultures were similar since they're mostly from eastern and western Europe and all felt the shock of coming to

"As the oldest, I feel I have

more responsibility than everyone," she said. "[The] younger girl[s] - they are still getting in the process of getting used to the U.S. I feel like I have to help them."

One thing that has made it even more difficult is the distance from her family she left behind, who she only gets to see twice a year.

"It is hard, especially when school is hard, and tennis is hard," Mutel said. "When it's too much pressure and hard to handle by yourself, I always can call them and ask them advice. They always support me despite the distance."

Even though she misses her family, Mutel said NSU makes it worth it.

"Coming here was honestly the best decision in my life," she said. "I feel great. My team, my coaches, my friends, my professors - everyone is great."

Demon Baseball slams into season with four wins

EMMA BURLET Reporter

The NSU Demon Baseball team had a dynamic start to their season, winning two out of three games against Binghamton University Feb. 16-18 and two against University of Pennsylvania Feb. 23-24.

This new season gives the team a chance to improve their overall 20-34 record from 2017

Senior infielder David Fry said he is ready for the new season and this year's prospects, which includes 18 new players.

"I think we got a really good

team," Fry said. "We have a lot of new guys, and it's a really hardworking team. I like our chances."

surprised me was when

everyone said 'hey' or 'what's

up' when we didn't know

each other," Mutel said.

"People are actually friendly

and want to talk to you. In

my country, it's not common

"Also, food; food [here]

is really spicy, and I cannot

really eat spicy food," she

said. "I miss my mom's food,

homemade food. When I go

home, my mom cooks all day

thing to say 'hey' randomly.

Bobby Barbier, head coach, explained that the most important thing for the team is to improve and strengthen as the season goes on.

"Hopefully, the team we see now is not the same team that we see at the end of the year,"

Barbier expressed the need to improve due to their two strikes at bat. He believes the team is okay on the mound but would like to see the team produce more strikes, along with decreasing the amount of three-ball counts.



Nathan Jones pitches to a Binghamton batter.

Photo by Sean McGraw

The coach wants the team to focus on what is happening next, but not look too far in the future.

"We try not to look [at the] big picture too much,"

he said. "I was really focused on how we did at practice today, and that's the kind of mentality we want them to have."

The team prepares

differently each depending on availability. To prepare for the Feb. 20 University of Louisiana Monroe game, the Demons held a short practice the day before. Their first weekday game against ULM resulted in a 6-11 loss, but with their longer practices preparing for their series against the University of Pennsylvania, the Demons bounced back with 2-1 and 8-2 wins.

The Demons will kick off their Southland Conference run March 9 at Nicholls and later return to Brown-Stroud Field for a home series against Texas A&M - Corpus Christi near the end of March.

ARTS & LIVING 7 | FEB. 28, 2018



The Eyes of Argus

The Toast

ISABELLA MARTES

Argus 1993

Here's to rich men in poor health, fast cars, slow dancing, hot showers, cold beer, fine wine, cheap cigarettes, rainy days, stormy nights, soft beds, hard liquor, full moons, empty bottles, loud music, soft kisses, sad movies, fake smiles, wild parties, Southern Comfort, clean sheets, dirty jokes, lasting friendships, temporary lovers, bad boys, good sex, new days, old flames, strong hearts, gypsy souls, and the uncommon women who live for it all.

Cuban artist Llanes comes to NSU

KEATOR POLEMAN

Reporter

uba and the U.S. seem worlds ■ apart. While our differences often overshadow the similarities we share, one connection that persists is our passion for the arts.

Reynier Llanes is a Cuban artist from the Pinar del Río area. Llanes moved to Naples, Florida, in 2007 and later to Miami. Now he's come to Northwestern State University to be an artist-inresidence until March, teaching students while working on his own artwork.

Llanes believes he has been an artist since he was in the womb. His earliest memory of being artistic was when he was a small child at age 4 or 5.

"I knew that I was very into creating things, portraying my dreams and trying to capture things that I've seen like natural life," the artist said.

Llanes began attending art school at age 15 and studied for five years. After his time at the



Reynier Llanes Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa

school, he began working as a professor, teaching at universities and high schools in Cuba. He says it gave him "a lot of prospective," and he enjoyed sharing his knowledge with students.

"When you go to Cuba and see the art schools, even though they don't have all the materials that we need, they're still creating good art," he said. "They're still passionate about it."

A resourceful man, Llanes once had difficulty getting watercolors due to a lack of resources in Cuba and instead used coffee. Though he says the experience was an accident, he has since used coffee in several pieces of his work.

Llanes considers himself a iournalist as well as an artist.

"I don't have a major in journalism or anything like that," he said. "But I feel like I'm representing our current times through my work."

Though he has a tendency to create "romantic" pieces - "fun paintings using metaphors," Llanes believes artists can help the world improve through their

Since coming to NSU, Llanes has helped aspiring artists plan for career maintenance once their time in school ends. He advises students begin getting their work out in public while they are

Research center provides help for students seeking sources

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Managing Editor

Hiding three stories above, a quiet sanctuary awaits delicate, brown pages that age has kissed. It may be their final resting place, but these pages do not sleep easily as visitors come seeking the knowledge they hold.

The Cammie Research Center Henry protects countless books, manuscripts, maps documenting newspapers the history of Natchitoches and its surrounding area.

Sharon Wolff, the current assistant archivist at the Center, has been studying the archives ever since she made the move to Louisiana from New York a year ago.

"I think what we do is important, because what archives represent history," she said. "A lot of our manuscripts are one-of-a-kind."

time in the Research Center for different projects is Kelli



Assistant Archivist Sharon Wolff sorts through material.

Hickerson, a junior at the Louisiana Scholars' College. She calls it a "fantastic. underutilized resource."

"The [archivists] are One student who has spent really helpful, and with so many primary texts residing in the Center, I can easily find what I am looking for," she said.

The archives are sorted into collections, with the majority of each collection being donated to the Center.

At the core of the archive is the Melrose Collection,

which encompasses diaries, scrapbooks and photographs of the Center's namesake. However, there is a lot more lurking on the shelves.

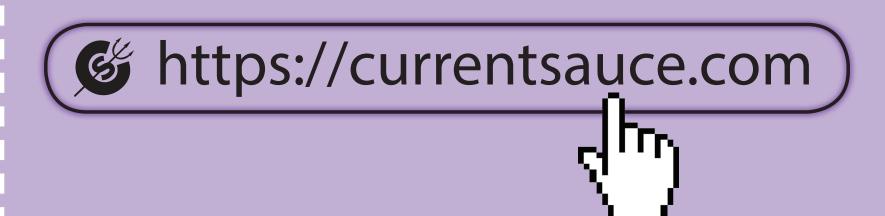
an important repository for some of the most historical documents

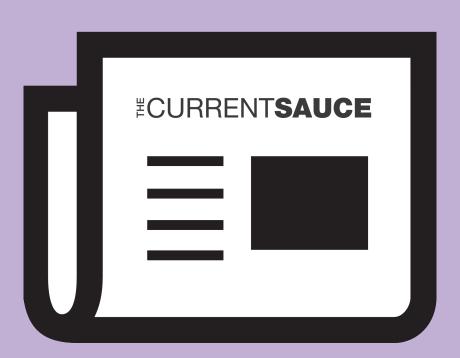
for this region," said Charles Pellegrin, associate professor of history. "A lot of their holdings have to deal with Natchitoches Parish and the Creole people."

Pellegrin has used the Research Center for personal research and sends his students there to locate information for papers something that he believes is important for his students' education.

"It's important to send them there so that they get an understanding of research in an archive," he said. "Part of what we do as students of history is to seek out those primary resources, to find out the facts of history."

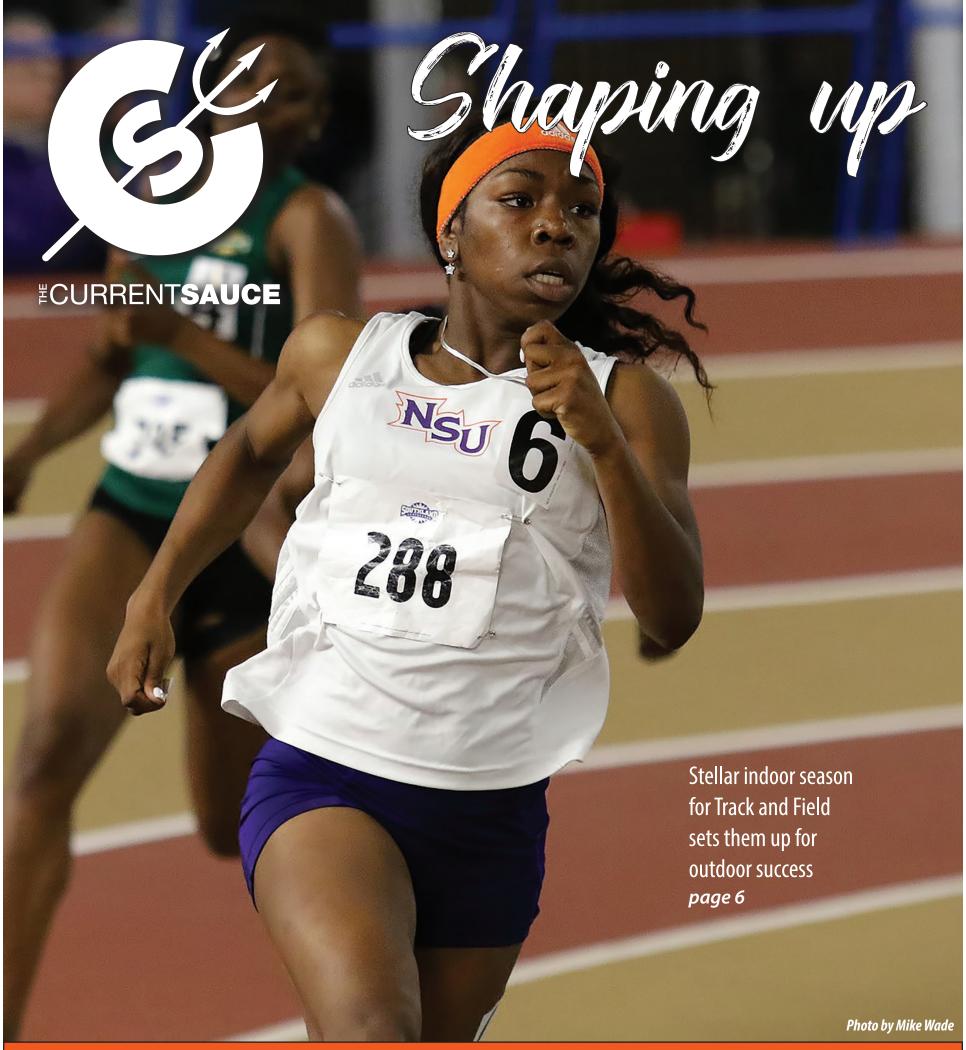
The Cammie G. Henry Research Center is located in the Watson Memorial Library on the third floor and open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. To access documents in the archive, a visitor must schedule an appointment with Wolff at wolffs@nsula.edu





News waits for no one.

Don't miss it.



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BOARD of REGENTS

Campus Climate Survey

https://goo.gl/i63jRr

Help address important issues on campus such as sexual violence, physical violence, stalking, and alcohol and drug use. By participating in this 15-20 minute survey, you will be providing critical insights to help protect and support NSU students.

Results will be presented to the Louisiana Board of Regents as well as individual institutions in the Louisiana system of higher education.



Stop by Alexis Smith's office in 308 Student Union for a Cafe DeMon coupon after completing the survey.

Police Blotter

February 27

Drug Law Violation 1109 hours University Columns

February 28

Disturbance 2040 hours Prather Coliseum Parties separated

March 2

Hit and Run 1117 hours Off Campus

March 3

Drug Law Violation 2311 hours Tarlton Drive Summons issued

Follett transitions bookstores, challenges Yelp reviews

KEATOR POLEMAN

Reporter

With a total of about 1,200 bookstores, Follett Higher Education Group has already opened its doors in the Friedman Student Union. While it prepares to move to 912 University Parkway – the Neebo building – Follett will provide Scantrons and other essentials to students.

The Shreveport campus bookstore is temporarily operating at the Student Services Office while their store is moved to an area near Cafe DeMon, to reopen at an unspecified date.

The renovated bookstore will open across from Watson Memorial Library before the fall semester, but even with its close proximity to campus, there is one challenge that needs to be addressed.

University Parkway can be a dangerous street to cross, partially due to its lack of crosswalks. Campus residents without vehicles will likely trek to the bookstore on foot.

Jennifer Kelly, director of Auxiliary Services, said there is currently no plan to add a crosswalk. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development will oversee

that if the state deems it necessary.

"We feel that it's going to be a need, but we'll have to address it with the state," Kelly said. "It's not something Northwestern can just go do."

The bookstore building, now owned by the NSU Foundation and leased to Follett, is undergoing renovations and will reopen near summer's end. Kelly said digital renderings of the project will soon be released.

Bill Boney, a Follett vice president and NSU alumnus, addressed concerns over the company's low review average on Yelp, comparing the site to Wikipedia.

"Anybody can say anything in Yelp; they're not really vetted," Boney said. "No one really goes and really investigated those particular comments ... I went and did a Yelp search on Barnes & Noble College stores and got the exact same results."

Barnes & Noble and its college bookstores do not have a centralized Yelp profile for reviews, but average ratings for their individual college stores range from one to five

While he admitted to not reading his company's reviews, Boney said they are "pretty standard" to reviews of similar companies.

"College stores are not everybody's favorite," Boney said. "You're having to come to us and shop for something like course material that you don't want to buy ... That's really, at the end of the day, why it's difficult for students."

Follett will price match Amazon and Barnes & Noble, according to Boney. They will not only provide a bookstore, but a "brand-new retail operation" for NSU.

"I think one of the things we're going to help is the overall community of Natchitoches," he said. Follett plans to sell merchandise at basketball games and at football tailgates, and they are rehiring some former Barnes & Noble employees.

Ann Barlow, a Follett regional manager, said the company is working to lower costs by developing partnerships with textbook publishers. They are also creating a system that will preload required access codes into students' myNSU accounts so they won't need to purchase the code in person.

"We really can help integrate into your current learning management system," Barlow said.

III S GA III

SGA Minutes: School shootings, call for NSU website update

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

Two student bills were introduced to the senate, the first of which comes as a response to the Feb. 14 shooting in Florida.

SGA passed SB.SP.2018-02 which offers condolences to those in Parkland, Florida, affected by the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School. Other school shootings across the country were also discussed, such as the March 2 shooting at Central Michigan University.

SGA will host a moderated debate in April on the topic of gun control; a date has not yet been set.

President Tre Nelson acknowledged the importance of talking about current issues at SGA and the need for discussion with the student body.

"I do think it's important for our SGA to recognize whenever crises happen around the country," he said.

SB.SP.2018-03 was additionally introduced to the floor; the bill "respectfully requests" that departments and colleges at NSU provide information about faculty and staff to be posted on the Northwestern State website, especially for prospective students interested in graduate school.

The bill asks for "the name, their photo, contact information, their degrees, research information and interests, and a short personal bio" of each faculty and staff member. The senate will vote on this bill March 12.

University Police to host active shooter seminars

EMMA BURLET

Reporter

Concerning the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida, it is apparent now more than ever that NSU students need to be aware of our policies in case a shooter threatens our campus' safety.

University Police will host a series of one hour active shooter seminars March 7 and 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

Jon Caliste, director of University Safety and Compliance at NSU, explained law enforcement has three main priorities when it comes to a campus shooter: first is to stop the threat; second is to aide injured people; third is to evacuate the area.

"Our number one priority as a law enforcement department is to stop the killing," Caliste said.

Law enforcement at NSU trains specifically with these priorities in mind. Officers are also trained in expecting how students will react, and they are able to find out who is in each building on campus to see if they are okay.

University Police teaches three basic tenets for active shooter situations: avoid, deny and defend. Freshmen in University Studies classes are taught this by certified officers during their first semester.

A handout from University Police outlines procedures that students should take in the event of an emergency in a classroom, apartment or dorm room, and office. This leaflet is available at the police station on Caspari Street.

Safety methods include the following: stay away from windows, silence your phone and keep quiet, close blinds and cover windows, turn off lights and stay in the room until an "all clear" is sent via Purple Alert.

Sign up for NSU's emergency notification system, Purple Alert, at https://goo.gl/ hN4QZE MARCH 7, 2018 ARTS & LIVING 3



The Eyes of Argus

Trees and Breezes

MELODY CARSON

Argus 2004

Trees and breezes go together Like the Ocean's sand and waves The breeze that blows the boughs of trees Makes sweet music a heart simply craves

The gentle breeze begins with a whisper
And gradually picks up speed
Then crescendos with wild and free abandon
Through arms that began as seed

The breeze then returns to its soft, gentle dance From one leafy, grand stage to another Then frolics and tumbles and prances and stumbles Like a playful sister and brother

Trees and breezes go together
Like faith, and hope, and charity
With exhilarating beauty, and exquisite sounds
That echo with truth and purity

Accomplished author visits campus

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

A uthor Denise Lewis Patrick says her career has been anything but "straightforward." After earning a degree in journalism from NSU in 1977, Patrick moved to New York City where she has held several different jobs.

Patrick will present a lecture in Magale Recital Hall March 8 at 7 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. She will be available an hour before the talk in Orville J. Hanchey Gallery for a reception and book signing. NSU students are encouraged to attend.

Before moving to New York, Patrick said she had never traveled far from home or been on an airplane. Her first job in the city was as an intern at Essence magazine. Though she didn't get to write much there, she was immediately offered a job after completing her internship.

New York's "high stress environment," was a culture shock for Patrick at first, and she was fired from her first job after a few months.



Denise Lewis Patrick

Determined not to move back home, Patrick applied at the New York Times where she was hired and worked for roughly a year. After leaving the New York Times, Patrick went on to work for other companies, such as Scholastic.

"The experience of being fired was jarring," she said. "It caused me to think maybe I wasn't cut out for this. But I realized over time, after I had gone on to work at Scholastic, Inc., that I was just as skilled as any of my coworkers, some of which had gone to Ivy League schools or had higher degrees."

A Natchitoches native and NSU graduate, Patrick went on to earn a master's degree in creative writing from the University of New Orleans.

Patrick has written reports for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, created New York City travel guides and written several books, including two series for American Girl.

She is now an adjunct professor of writing at Montclair State University.

These are only a few of her accomplishments, as Patrick is a believer in "never standing still."

During her time in Natchitoches this week, Patrick has visited several NSU communications classes. Many of the students in these classes are aspiring writers as well.

Her advice to these students: "Don't do anything the way I did," Patrick laughs. "Find your own way, and never give up. In this field, you have to love what you're doing, because the money isn't always great. Keep practicing, gain confidence, and always be open to learning

French culture brought to NSU via Tournées film festival

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

Acoalition of Northwestern State faculty have brought the Tournées French and Francophone Film Festival to campus for the spring semester. With the help of the French Embassy and other grant services, the festival, which will run throughout March, highlights both contemporary and classic French cinema.

Dr. Allison Rittmayer, assistant professor of English and film, found out about the grant, which is similar to the grant received last year for the Spanish film festival, through her involvement with the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.

"It's a fairly low-pressure grant, as far as grants are concerned," she said. "Everything after [receiving the grant] is the hard part." Rittmayer was ultimately inspired to plan the festival at NSU to increase exposure to international films. It also reminded her of the French film festival she attended when she was an undergraduate student at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania.

"I'm glad to be able to give the experience to students here that I had as an undergrad," she said.

The films chosen follow a theme of the bildungsroman – the coming of age story – and range from the animated film "April and the Extraordinary World" to the drama and romance of "Being 17."

"We didn't pick a film we didn't want to watch," Rittmayer said. "Part of the reason we pick films we haven't seen is because we ... would like to see them on a big screen."

"We don't get French films

coming to Natchitoches or even to Shreveport very often," she said.

The film enthusiast explained that although the Tournées festival is widespread, thanks to the French-American Cultural Exchange Foundation, it is interesting to see the ties between the French films and the French influence on culture in Louisiana.

The spring semester proved to be perfect timing for the festival in relation to French culture in Louisiana. February 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, a state government organization that promotes francophone culture and the French language.

One of the six film selections, "Theo's Choice" was written by former University of Louisiana-Lafayette Assistant Professor Thomas Cauvin. The documentary follows French teacher Theo Brode and the "rebirth" of the French language in Louisiana.

"Theo is fighting to uncover his identity and transmit this heritage to his students," Cauvin said in a 2017 interview with France-Amérique. "He's a standard-bearer for this young generation of Louisiana teachers and activists who want to preserve the French language in their state and make it useful."

Rittmayer emphasized the unique qualities of French immersion schools in Louisiana and the importance of teachers, which is why they reached out to the college of education at a school most famously known for the teachers it produces.

Overall, she said she enjoys

bringing unique experiences to NSU students and Natchitoches.

"Film has always been a way of traveling without leaving home," she said. "It's experiencing something different."

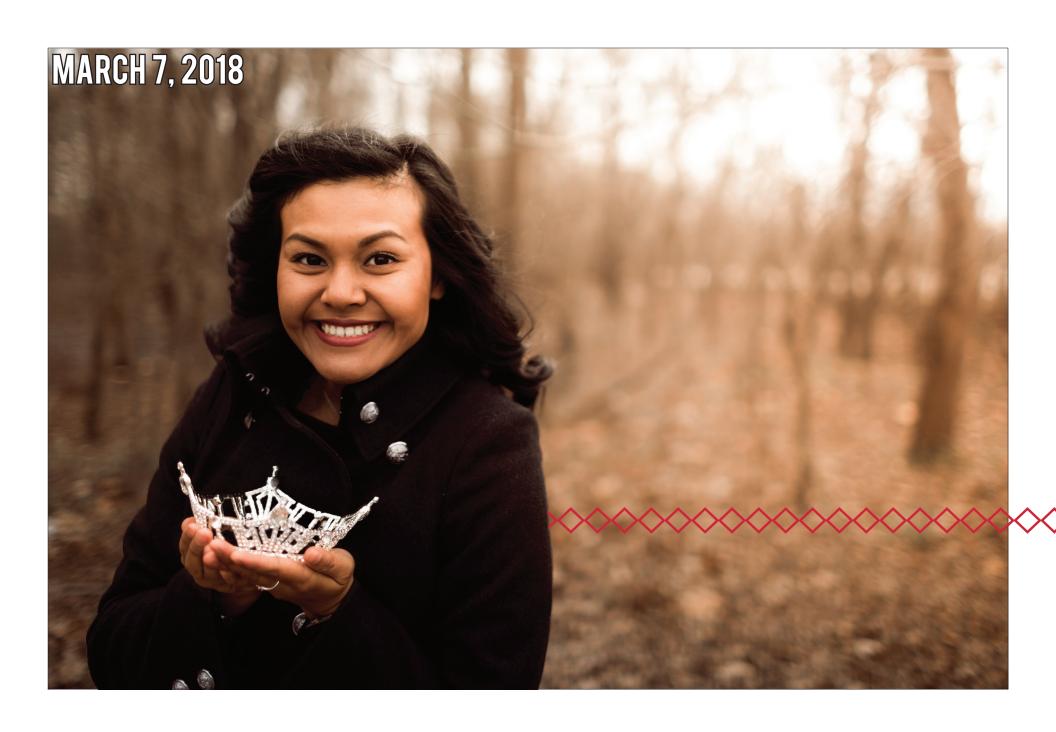
Each film will have multiple screenings in Room 206 of the CAPA Annex on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout March's entirety. English subtitles will be used.

Admission is free to the public, and Rittmayer encourages not only students, but families to attend the screenings.

The full schedule can be viewed at Rittmayer's website, arittmayer.com/ events/

Tournées French and Francophone Film Festival

Feb. 21 - March 28 206 CAPA Annex



Hardship drove



Prleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge Ernestine S. Gray and Joy M. Bruce, executive director of CASA New Orleans, co-authored an editorial in 2016 stating that nationally one of the fastest-growing groups of children entering foster care has been those aged 14 to 17.

National statistics show that, without support, these children are three times more likely than the general population to not earn a high school diploma or GED. 7 percent earn college degrees by age 26, compared to 33 percent of the general population.

Within a year of exiting care, one in five is homeless. Within two years, one in four is incarcerated. And the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder is 21.5

percent – five times higher than average, higher even than that of American war veterans. About half are unemployed.

A senior psychology major at NSU, Htet Htet Rodgers entered foster care at age 13 and has since refused to be a statistic; she has used her experience in the system to make the lives of those still living in the foster care system better on a state and national level.

"In that time, I've only had one placement, and that person became my forever family. She still supports me to this day like a parent should," Rodgers says. "It's very unusual to have one placement. I've always been classified as a poster child by the state."





Photos by Trace Constant

Relatively new to competing in pageants, Htet Htet Rodgers will represent CenLA in the 2018 Miss Louisiana Pageant this summer.

When asked if Rodgers felt she had been prepared for adulthood, she gave an emphatic "Oh, heck no."

"I give credit to my foster mom for motivating everything," she says. "I wanted to do something and give back ... and that's what drove me."

Rodgers says a oneplacement foster family like she experienced was far from the norm in most foster children's experiences with the system.

"I know one person who went through 64 placements in three different states," she says.

"If a kid had serious trauma in life and had been abused in every imaginable way, they can have a lot of mental and emotional issues," Rodgers says. "If someone isn't well equipped to adhere to their emotional, physical and mental needs, they're not going to be the best person for that kid."

As Rodgers strives to become one of the 7 percent of foster kids who obtain college degrees, she has also become a spokesperson for foster kids on a national platform in Washington. Rodgers joined the National Foster Youth Institute, a non-profit organization, to make a difference in the lives of foster youth and families across America.

As a foster youth intern of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Rodgers traveled to Washington, crafted a policy recommendation and called for the creation of a "national foster youth taxonomy" to ensure accurate and seamless extraction of data and records.

This policy would prevent a youth's records from mixups caused by discrepancies between some states or counties using "family name" and another using "surname."

Another potential gain would be to prevent foster children from being held back in school when they are relocated and have issues enrolling. This is exceptionally troublesome when you consider students are on a timeline, and foster children can age out of the system without a high school diploma.

"It's something we really need to look at, and there's a lot of data we don't collect that'd be resourceful for the other services," Rodgers says.

In 2016, Rodgers attended the firstever White House Hackathon, a program to encourage technology use and improve outcomes for youth in the foster system.

She has also worked with Microsoft to develop an app that would have helped provide mothers in dangerous situations with confidential assistance. Unfortunately, the project didn't have enough funding to

complete development.

Now Miss CenLA, Rodgers will compete for the crown at the Miss Louisiana Pageant this June in her first attempt at pageants.

"It's more than wearing a crown," she says. "There's this motto we go by: service, scholarship, style and success. In all of those, I see something I've lived by my whole life"

6 SPORTS MARCH 7, 2018

NSU Track and Field gains momentum

ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

Capped by some of the teams' bestever performances in the Southland Conference Indoor Championships, Demon Track and Field is set up to have a successful outdoor stint this spring.

The women's secondplace finish at the championships was the highest in history, according to the team's Twitter, and the men's rank was their best since 2003.

Reflecting on the Southland Indoors, Associate Head Coach Adam Pennington said they were expecting to do well, but he was most proud of the team's drive despite adversity.

"The team kept fighting through the [4x400 relay] on the women's side," he said. "Even with the amount of injuries [the men] had, they just kept pushing and kept competing ... Overall, the team did a great job of supporting one another."

Nationally, the men's team ranked sixth and ninth at the



The women's Track and Field team placed second at the Southland Conference Indoor Championships. Men had another successful day, placing third overall.

end of week six for the 60 meter and 200 meter dashes, respectively. Junior Micah Larkins' times currently lead the team on both charts with some of his careerbest performances from the Pittsburg State Invitational

in January.

Capturing the Women's High Point Award at the championships with 23.5 points was sophomore Natashia Jackson, who competed in four events. In a Feb. 22 press release, Head

Coach Mike Heimerman called her the "best athlete to coach" after Southland Indoors.

"She never gets tired," he said.

Other high points of the championships include

first-place finishes by Daeshon Gordon in the 60 meter hurdles and by De'Shalyn Jones, who achieved a new personal record in the 200 meter dash.

The teams have been taking it easy in practice leading up to the March 10 outdoor season kick-off at the McNeese Cowboy Pennington and Relays. Heimerman emphasized the athletes' health and schoolwork in the recess between indoor and outdoor meets, but team morale is "great" after their indoor season ended strong.

"They're just excited to finally get outdoors and be able to open up an outdoor meet," Pennington said, adding that most of the team is used to outdoor events since many high schools don't have indoor meets.

"Overall, we'll start going back into a ... build stage for the first few weeks of outdoor," Heimerman said. "[We're] just trying to get in good enough shape to compete for a Conference title in May."

Recruitment plays a factor in new athletic facilities

SAMANTHA MAIETTE *Manging Editor*

The Northwestern State University community will see new and improved sport facilities within the next few years. Renovations and new additions are expected to cost nearly \$2 million, according to a press release outlining the possible improvements.

These upgrades will include updates to the track and field complex, including building locker rooms near the complex, updates to current baseball facilities, building a lounge and offices for the tennis team and updating the N-Club Hall of Fame display in Prather Coliseum.

One facility in planning that is not outlined in the

press release is a strength and conditioning room, which will be located behind the Athletic Fieldhouse. It is expected to be a 7500 square foot "state of the art" facility, said Greg Burke, NSU athletic director.

These improvements will help student athletes, of course, but they will also facilitate recruitment for each team and the university.

"It's important for recruiting," Burke said. "You like to think that it shouldn't matter whether or not a facility looks good, but that is what young recruits look at."

One of the more important aspects of recruitment for the athletic department is when local high school football teams, Natchitoches Central and St. Mary's, play in Harry S. Turpin Stadium on Thursday and Friday nights. Burke mentioned the importance of this because it "brings in people from out of town," and exposes them to NSU.

Recruitment is not the only reason the facilities are being updated; new facilities also "[make] a difference in the fan experience," Burke said. These renovations have cost more than \$1 million in upgrades to Turpin Stadium, including a \$900,000 scoreboard and \$600,000 for new purple seats in the main stands – both of which were funded by private donations or sponsorships.

Private donations are the main form of funding for any building project, especially when one must be made to hire an architect who designs plans to wow potential investors.

Once designs are drawn, Burke and his team reach out to past donors and ask for their help as well.

"If we're sitting down with someone, [we] usually have a pretty good idea if they have an affinity for [a certain sport]," he said. "In the case of the weight room, it can be anybody."

Alumni donations make each project possible.

"In the world of Division I sports, facilities have to stay on the front burner," Burke said, adding that it's a challenge to raise money for daily needs and for improvements. "We have to work hard to generate

enough revenue to pay for our everyday expenses."

These costs include paying personnel and funding scholarships promised to student athletes upon committing to NSU.

"If you have a plan that's well laid out, well-illustrated and well-articulated, then you have confidence that there are people out there who love the university enough and want to see athletics be successful," Burke said. "They will interface with that request and will provide generous donations."

There is no date set for when these updates will begin or which will break ground first, as Burke and his team are still in the process of finalizing plans. MARCH 7, 2018 OPINION 7



'Dragon Ball FighterZ': battles, action, visuals

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Opinion Columnist

Growing up, I have adored the world of "Dragon Ball" from the lighthearted and fun stories of Son Goku and his friends, the tense and dramatic fights of Z and the current continued adventures of the Z fighters in "Super." However, when it comes to the video games the series offers, most of them have their charm but has quality left to be desired.

My favorites consist of the "Budokai" series, "Super Dragon Ball Z," "Buu's Fury" and "Budokai Tenkaichi 3." All of these except "Buu's Fury" are fighting games and, despite being fun on their own, don't offer the depth and mechanics that traditional fighting games offer.

Recently, the newest "Dragon Ball" title, "Dragon Ball FighterZ," takes this wish that fans have had for years and accomplishes it – but with minor flaws.

"FighterZ" – pronounced "fighters" – was developed by fighting game veterans Arc System Works, known for titles such as "Guilty Gear," "BlazBlue" and "Persona 4 Arena."

When it comes to the presentation of the game, Arc System Works nailed the look of the series. The game runs on the Unreal Engine 4, and the team took what they learned from their previous title, "Guilty Gear Xrd" and applied it to "FighterZ." The models, environments, special moves and the cinematic attacks feel like Arc referenced the original manga and copies the iconic motions straight from the work, which I noticed playing the beta version.

The gameplay of "FighterZ" itself is fast-paced, varied and offers a lot of experimentation for expert players.

The game plays in a three-versus-three style similar to the "Marvel vs. Capcom" series, and each character you choose has differing playstyles. Figuring out which one suits you best or just learning your favorite character is the fun of the game and keeps me coming back for the action.

This doesn't mean you have to spend a lot of time figuring out a ton of combos – because the game has auto combos – and the only complex motion for specials is the "fireball," also known as the

Hadouken motion.

While this may be a positive aspect for some players, for me it seems to hold the title back.

Playing "FighterZ" came naturally to me after about an hour, and I felt like that was the limit of the game. Other fighting games, even ones made by Arc System, were easy to learn but hard to master mechanics.

"FighterZ" is just easy. Sometimes it makes the game boring, and this was very apparent to me when I played the Story Mode of the game.

"Dragon Ball FighterZ" features an original story exclusive to the title. Clones of the Z Fighters have been dispersed across the world, and the villains of the past such as Cell and Frieza have been resurrected. At the helm of it all is a mysterious android known as Android 21.

I expected the story to be the sort of generic side story that most games had, and I was right – which I had no problem with. The game does, however, have good character moments when you put together certain characters in a team before a battle.

My problem came from how much time you spend fighting clones in story mode, and fighting them is required to unlock a secret character. After three clone fights, the mode gets repetitive.

I ended up having to do more than 80 of those battles just to get one character. Most of those fights were just me blindly mashing the square button for the auto combo since the artificial intelligence is as challenging as sleeping through a boring lecture.

Unfortunately, the online component of the game didn't work very well for me. I couldn't get into any online matches due to a poor dorm internet connection; I had constant dropouts of online lobbies and difficulty connecting to the server at times.

Internet service providers vary, but judging from other responses to the game, I'm not the only one having these problems.

Despite all my problems with the game, I still would recommend it to any fan of "Dragon Ball," or someone looking to get into fighting games. This can be a good first step. It's one of the better "Dragon Ball" games out at the moment and is a lot more fun to play with friends for fun, or competitively against experienced players.



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We Are So Lucky To Have Dogs.







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BOARD of REGENTS

Campus Climate Survey



https://goo.gl/i63jRr

Help address important issues on campus such as sexual violence, physical violence, stalking, and alcohol and drug use. By participating in this 15-20 minute survey, you will be providing critical insights to help protect and support NSU students.

Results will be presented to the Louisiana Board of Regents as well as individual institutions in the Louisiana system of higher education.



Stop by Alexis Smith's office in 308 Student Union for a Cafe DeMon coupon after completing the survey.

<u>**Police Blotter**</u>

March 8

Hit and Run 1359 hours Parking Lot 30 Vehicles identified

Hit and Run 1424 hours Unknown

Vehicle Burglary 2014 hours WRAC

March 12

Disturbance 0205 hours University Place II Advised to keep noise down



Photo by Sean McGraw

Egyptologist Dr. Elizabeth Cummins discussed the challenges of studying humor in ancient art last week at the Louisiana Scholars' College.

Satire of the past brought to life

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

Dr. Elizabeth Cummins presented her lecture "Not Your Mummy's Memes: Humor and Politics in New Kingdom Art" at the Louisiana Scholars' College March 7. Not only did Cummins give her lecture on satire in Egyptian artifacts, but she joined in the directed study course on Cleopatra throughout the week.

Long-time friend and fellow academic Dr. T. Davina McClain assisted in bringing Cummins to Northwestern State. Eta Sigma Phi, the classics honor society on campus, applied for a grant through the Classical Association of the Middle West and South to help with the costs.

McClain, now associate professor of classics at NSU and secretary-treasurer of the southern section of the CAMWS, first met Cummins 23 years ago when she taught Latin at Loyola University in New Orleans.

"She's been part of my life ever since," Cummins said. "I look up to her and love her immensely."

Since earning her bachelor's in English and classics from Loyola, Cummins received her museum certification from Tufts University in coordination with Harvard University, her master's degree in Egyptology from

the University of Memphis, and her doctoral degree in art history from Emory University.

Cummins has worked with the American Research Center in Egypt and The Grand Egyptian Museum, living in Egypt for years before moving back to the U.S. during the Egyptian Revolution to finish her doctoral program.

She has also worked with the History Channel for the 2009 documentary "Sex in the Ancient World: Egypt" and recently signed a book deal with the American University of Cairo for her work, "Beds in Ancient Egypt: New Perspectives on Sex, Sleeping and Death."

With a room full of students, professors and community members, Cummins showed examples of what she believes to be satire used by Egyptian artists.

She admitted, however, that her path studying this has not been easy and doesn't come without questioning whether interpretations are correct. Cummins said she didn't originally think there was anything satirical about the ancient Egyptians because of their beliefs in the concept of *ma'at* – harmony and balance.

"Political satire does everything against that; it upends everything," she said.

It wasn't until she started digging that the Egyptologist came to her current disposition.

"Humor is a tough thing to study," Cummins said. "It's hard to kind of go back and figure out contextually what is actually funny and [figure out if] it meant the same things to them.

"I find that the most interesting images often come from what we call [informal images]," she said.

Cummins explained that the official record is what we see in tombs, whereas graffiti and sketches act as informal records. Artists didn't take as much liberty with the official record, but we start to see "jabs" at the elite and rulers of the time in ostraca – limestone chips used for drawing on.

"The power of images was something very, very special to the Egyptians," she said. "To have an image was to make it happen."

She highlighted the potential for these images of political satire to be an "underlying attempt to show resistance to authority" and connected political satire of the past to examples of political satire today.

Cummins and McClain agree that re-evaluating records and taking new lenses to academia is important, especially in areas that haven't been discussed as much.

"It's when you get into the non-canonical [and 'out-there'] things ... that [you realize], 'Hey, this is really cool,'" McClain said.



SGA Minutes: Webb dedication, Mental Health Awareness

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

Plans that began in late 2017 to rename the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center will come to fruition next week. On Nov. 6, SGA passed SR.F.2017-02, also known as the Webb Resolution, in support of the renaming.

The dedication ceremony of the WRAC in Dr. Randall J. Webb's honor on March 20 will begin with a reception at 2:30 p.m. for attendees. The ceremony will officially start at 3 p.m.

Several senators also spoke about Mental Health Awareness Week March 26-28 and the preparation involved.

Monday, March 26, NSU Counseling and Career Services will host a raising awareness event providing information about mental health 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Friedman Student Union lobby.

Dr. Ross Szabo will speak in the Student Union Ballroom March 27 at 6 p.m.

"Stress Relief Yoga and Meditation" will be at the LSMSA gymnasium – across from the Police Station – at 6 p.m.

MARCH 14, 2018 NEWS 3

Louisiana senator proposes higher ed board merger, Henderson objects

KEATOR POLEMAN *Reporter*

Sen. Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell, intends to file a billinthe Louisiana Legislature that would combine all four of Louisiana's higher education systems into one.

The senator wants colleges near each other to "look for opportunities to work together and to be more efficient," both in program offerings and spending. She would like to see a system that allows students to take courses on any campus and easily apply the credits to their chosen university.

"If we were more judicious and work together, we could increase the offerings to students," Hewitt said.

However, the plan does have its critics, including Marty Chabert of the Board of Regents, Stephen Smith from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board of Supervisors, and Dr. Jim Henderson, president of the University of Louisiana System.

"This is something that has been proposed numerous times over the last 30 years," Henderson said. "No one has actually said what it is they're trying to achieve by that."

In its recent special session, the Louisiana Legislature failed to reach a solution that



Photo courtesy of sharonhewitt.com

Sen. Sharon Hewitt, R-Slidell, aims to streamline higher education systems in a move she believes will cut costs and increase students' options.

addresses the almost \$1 billion deficit in next year's budget. Proposed cuts to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students continue to threaten higher education.

Henderson recently appeared on the University of Louisiana System's YouTube channel to urge legislators to fulfill "the TOPS promise" for current and future students of Louisiana colleges and universities.

While legislators and constituents focus nervously

on the budget crisis, Hewitt's proposal has seemed like less of a priority. Regarding the bill, Henderson laughed when asked if he was worried his job would be eliminated if it passes.

"Everything that I have done in higher education has been about expanding access to students," he said. "I'm not part of the equation at all."

Henderson said previous solutions have focused on "saving state dollars." He said the recent proposal is different due to colleges being more reliant "on student tuition dollars than they are state taxpayer dollars."

"Everything we do in higher education should be about 'How do we corral the number of students that can come to our universities and graduate with degrees of value?" Henderson said. "Unless you can say that with this reform we're going to increase that number, I don't think it's worth the cost of pursuing the reform."



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·

KENNETH BURNS
Student Media Coordinator

Students can spend summer in Chetumal, Mexico

HOLLY JENKINS
Reporter

NSU offers many opportunities for students interested in studying abroad. For students seeking commitment, shorter study abroad summer programs offer the same benefits as fall and spring options in a four-week

Originally, NSU planned to offer study abroad programs this summer in Angers, France and Chetumal, Mexico. Due to lack of student sign-ups, however, International Student Resource Center graduate assistant Vivian Pedroza said the Angers trip may no longer happen.

Students may still apply for Chetumal, though they are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, as the official application deadline has passed.

"People should consider studying abroad because it offers full immersion in another culture," Pedroza said. "We have many students return who say they want to go again. This is experience you don't get in a classroom."

Students participating in this program are placed with a local host family and spend a month studying at the University of Quintana Roo where they can earn up to six Spanish credit hours.

When not in class, students spend time exploring the area which is near to Cozumel, Cancun, Chichen Itza and other tourist hotspots.

The overall cost is roughly \$1,500 and includes tuition, two meals a day, field trips, ground transportation from

Cancun to Chetumal and back and hotel costs on arrival and departure nights.

Other costs, such as airfare and international health insurance, are not included.

Applicants must have a 2.5 GPA and must have completed at least 24 credit hours, including credits for Spanish 1010 and 1020.

For more information on studying abroad, visit the International Student Resource Center in 227 Russell Hall, or contact Director Telba Espinoza-Contreras at 318-357-5939.

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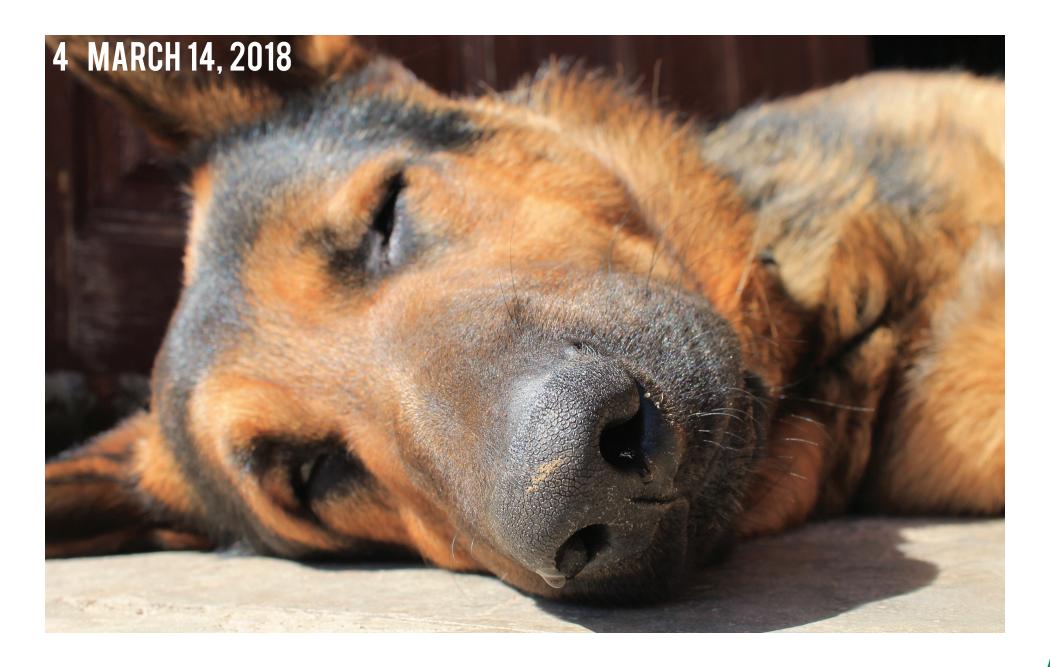






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THE FORGOTTEN FEW

By Lexi Antoon, Contributing Writer

Animal control officers evolve on the job

The people of animal control dedicate their lives to animals' safety, but that sacrifice often costs them their wellbeing.

Officer Grady Hungerford entered the misunderstood field of animal control in 1997 at age 26. His outlook on life, optimistic, would be quickly altered. Like animal control officers before him, breaking free of the dark aftermath would be grueling.

Hungerford's journey started when an owner surrendered two German shepherds to Calcasieu Parish animal control.

H ungerford arrives at work eager to start the day. New to the field,

he has not yet experienced what often causes secondary traumatic stress in animal control workers. He spots the two dogs during a kennel check, and their bond with him is instant. His eyes gleam while he remembers this first encounter.

He fondly recalls the loyal duo being extremely friendly toward the employees. Both the shepherds stood resolute, each with shiny black and tan fur. Hungerford can still picture their dark chocolate eyes bursting with love and loyalty.

He walks and plays with them any time there is a spare moment. Hungerford assured himself these shepherds would easily find a forever home.

But there is no happy ending to this story.

During this time, the shelter could only keep animals for three business days, but no one was willing to put them down. Delaying the inevitable for several weeks, Hungerford searches for a home. He was only postponing the heartbreak.

He finishes walking the dogs when his supervisor Laura Lanza delivers the gut-wrenching news. Sitting on the shelter doorsteps, Lanza wraps her arm around Hungerford.

"It's time," she says, gently.

Time has run out, and his heart plummets. After a long and tear-filled talk, they say their final goodbyes.

Lanza and Hungerford take the dogs back into the shelter. Walking the short stretch of hallway quickly weighs on their hearts. They quietly place the shepherds inside the carbon monoxide chamber.

The dogs do not act out, calmly accepting their fate. The companions are placed in separate cages next to one another, separated by a metal sheet. Tears streaming, Hungerford apologizes to the dogs.

He then starts the gas cycle. Hungerford vividly remembers every moment of the next 10 minutes.

Oxygen in the chamber is vacuumed while carbon monoxide creeps in. The dogs frantically try to escape to no avail. Solemnly, both Lanza and Hungerford witness the shepherds' last moments.

One of them rips out his claws scratching at the metal door, a fruitless attempt to escape death. The gas fills their lungs, causing them to evacuate their bowels. Grime and blood splattered the cages. Their desperate whines changed the officers' souls.

Born strong and proud, a mixture of blood and fluids is the shepherds' final exit. An indescribable death howl pierces the air, leaving a deafening silence behind.

The officers open the chamber and see both dogs curled against the metal wall. In death, the dogs still tried to stay together. Hungerford drops to his knees and carefully lays their heads on his lap.

"I'm sorry," he whispers while gently stroking them.

He promises to be with them until the end.

"I owe it to them," he tells himself.

The officers gently place the shepherds in a cart, wheeling them to the incinerator. 1,600-degree flames quickly engulf the dogs.

"We placed them inside, watching their fur immediately burn off," Hungerford numbly recalls. "The flesh quickly started to melt away, and I just couldn't watch anymore. I shut the door but couldn't walk away."

H ungerford says a piece of himself died with the shepherds. Animal control is not for the fainthearted, he quickly realized. Like countless other animal control officers, he dedicated his life to helping defenseless animals and left scathed.

Though euthanasia techniques have evolved, the emotional pain persists.

Louisiana currently uses a combination of drugs during euthanasia procedures. Ketamine and xylazine sedate the animal. Then, an injection of sodium pentobarbital delivers the kill. Though humane for the animal, this method forces officers to personally witness the animal's demise.

"Dog-catcher" doesn't fully convey the duties of animal control; officers are often exposed to horrendous cases involving both people and animals and work to make their community safer.

Stray animals are the most common calls, but those are typically not the haunting scenes. Some cases follow officers well after retirement.

Hungerford recounts a cruelty case he worked in Louisiana.

A mother cooks gumbo in the kitchen while her family lounges in the den. The family pit bull urinates on the carpet. Armed with a Louisville Slugger, the father beats the dog in front of his family.

Officers also deal with animal attacks against people. Louisiana law requires all hospitals to report animal attacks, and animal control documents and photographs these injuries.

An unexpected case involved a little girl and her family's golden retriever. The dog bit her trying to get the toy she had in her mouth, nearly tearing her lips off.

"With the vicious attacks, by both people and animals, I never blame the animal," he says.

A loving dog still bites if provoked. In other cases, an owner trains the dog to be vicious.

Laura Lanza, a retired animal control supervisor, activist and lobbyist, recalls her start in Calcasieu Parish. Then, many people still used the term "dog pound," coined when animals were beaten to death with a rubber hose.

"Animal control was backwards and housed in hell-hole pound facilities," she recalls angrily.

She witnessed many other officers "burn out" from the job's more harsh demands, beginning when smaller shelters are incapable of housing all animals. Unfortunately, the only choices are adoption or death.

Lanza says, like so many other officers, she did not cope

very well. Food and alcohol temporarily kept the suffering at bay. The stress seeped into her personal life.

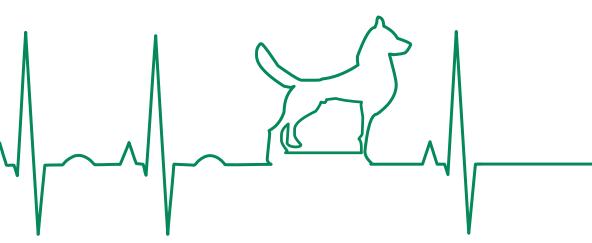
"My marriage was destroyed by the demands of work consuming so much of my time," she says.

Missing life's milestones, the job slowly chipped at her mental and physical health.

Both Lanza and Hungerford admit they struggled with public perception throughout their careers. The relationship with their community was often strained. People are quick to condemn when an open admission shelter's euthanasia statistics are revealed.

Hungerford recalls being harassed throughout his career. Lanza remembers being spit on while walking to public meetings.

"The blame is focused on the employees rather than society," Lanza says.



E ach of these factors combine and often cause secondary traumatic stress, or compassion fatigue, in animal control officers. Some may build emotional fortresses while others cope with food or alcohol, for example.

A 2015 study by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine determined that, other than military personnel, protective service workers had the highest suicide rates – 5.3 for every 1 million workers. This includes police, firefighters, detectives and animal control workers.

Hungerford's walls crashed quickly after retiring. Contemplating suicide, he found help at Professional Counseling Services. Sister

They need the help just like any police officer in the line of duty.

77

Diane Depwe, a trauma counselor in Lake Charles, Louisiana, knew Hungerford's case was like many others in animal control and other protective services.

"I don't think this mental health issue is on most people's radar," she says.

Dedicating years of time and energy to helpless animals causes many officers to suffer from compassion fatigue and then burn out. Compassion fatigue can cause anxiety, depressive behavior, vivid nightmares and mental or emotional numbness.

Though they are at high risk for secondary traumatic stress, animal control officers often don't have access to the same psychological treatment as police.

"They need the help just like any police officer in the line of duty," Depwe says.



Photo courtesy of Laura Lanza's Facebook page

Los Angeles-based animal activist Laura Lanza, above, worked in Calcasieu Parish with Grady Hungerford, an animal control officer, near the end of the 1990s. At that time, euthanization meant animals that had not been adopted after a specific time period were placed in a carbon monoxide chamber to die. This method is still used in some states.

6 ARTS & LIVING MARCH 14, 2018

Theatre to present 20th-century play

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Managing Editor

The written word has the ability to transcend time, but very few have the ability to remain relevant in this day and age. Tennessee Williams' play "A Streetcar Named Desire" is one of those pieces.

Set in New Orleans after World War II, the play follows the lives of Blanche, Stanley and Stella Kowalski who are all battling to obtain what they desire.

Sidney Gilder, playing Stella Kowalski in the Northwestern State production, said a play of this intensity requires "trust between actors."

This trust is developed through a month and a half of rehearsal and figuring out what each person is comfortable with, especially when choreographing sensitive material such as the rape scene in the play.

This scene is different than most. It is not about fulfilling sexual release, as rape scenes often seem; it's about control.

"[The character] doesn't rape her when he's drunk," Gilder said. "He's sober, but he does it to gain control over her."

Control over another person is not the only theme in Williams' play. "A Streetcar Named Desire" also addresses



Photo by Sean McGraw

homosexuality and awareness of how words can deeply affect someone, shown by Blanche and her husband's interactions.

"The things you say to someone can cause serious harm," Gilder said. "You don't know what they're going through."

"A Street Named Desire" may be a trigger to some who have experienced sexual assault or domestic violence, so viewers are advised to be cautious when viewing the play.

Opening night is March

14, and the play continues through March 24 in Theatre West. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m., except for the matinee on March 18, which begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are free to NSU and LSMSA students with a student ID but must be reserved in advance.

'A Streetcar Named Desire'

March 14-18, 21-24 Theatre West

March LitCon to bring artists, cosplay contest



Photo by Sean McGraw

FILE - Former English graduate student Karli Daigle, left, and NSU Student Media Coordinator Kenneth Burns speak at the 2017 inaugural LitCon.

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Reporter

NSU's Department of English, Foreign Language, and Cultural Studies will host its second annual LitCon March 21 in Orville J. Hanchey Gallery.

LitCon, organized by Instructor Oona Zbitkovskis, is a literary convention for the humanities community to gather on campus and explore how these disciplines fit in with each other. Different fields – such as English, theater, music and art – come together to demonstrate their importance.

"My hope that if someone comes to LitCon ... they may

see what is happening at NSU, how the humanities work together and opportunities for growth," Zbitkovskis said.

Writers, artists and illustrators will have tables for display. Booths from the Natchitoches Parish Library and other organizations across campus and the Natchitoches community will be present.

The first panels start at 9 a.m., each lasting one hour. At 12:30 p.m., the NSU Theatre troupe "Modern in Motion" will perform.

From 1-4 p.m., professionals will hold Q&A sessions discussing publishing, filmmaking, and students groups including Argus and Brainy Acts Poetry Society will

be present.

LitCon will close with a literary cosplay contest. Winners will receive a trophy and certificate.

"College is a time where you should be testing the water and pressing yourself to do things ... outside of your comfort zone," Zbitkovskis said. "If you don't even know that these opportunities exist, then how do you do that?"

Doors open on March 21 at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m.

LitCon

March 21 8:30 a.m.

21 Orville J. .m. Hanchey Gallery

Argus editor announces 2018 winners

KATIE RAYBURN

Argus Editor-in-Chief

Congratulations to the 2018 Language winners who demonstrated their own language through masterfully written poetry, entertaining fiction, captivating nonfiction and beautiful photography and artwork.

We would also like to acknowledge our judges as well for their non-biased and exceptional choices: Vanessa Velez (Fine Art), Alfonso Briseño (Photography), Jacob Hammer (Poetry), Clint Peters (Nonfiction) and Frisco Edwards (Fiction).

As the current Editor-in-Chief, I would like to personally congratulate my junior editor Allie Atkinson on winning first place in Poetry and our previous Editor-in-Chief Maggie Harris on winning second place in both Poetry and Fiction. Lastly, I am incredibly proud of Casey Alfultis for winning first place in Fiction.

I am constantly encouraging people to submit their writing and to have self-confidence; my advice for those looking to submit in the coming years is to keep writing. Always keep the pen flowing or the keys typing, and the world will be amazed at the language that flows out of

Congratulations again to all of our winners and to those who will be published in our magazine, coming out very shortly. Keep an eye out for our release, and always keep writing!





Poetry:

1st place – Cleanse / Allie Atkinson

2nd place – The Good Walmart Sweater / Maggie Harris

3rd place - Color Me In / Nicholas Jones

Fiction:

1st – The Heart Tailor / Casey Alfultis

2nd - The Garden of Portraits / Maggie Harris

3rd - Procrastination and Imagination / Skylar Guidroz

Honorable Mention - Old New Mexico Blues / Ruben E. Smith

Non-Fiction:

1st - Fifteen Minutes with Freaks for Jesus and the Snake Lady / Bruce Craft

2nd - Good Old Saint Expedite / Christian Frost

3rd - Now You're Speaking My Language / Ashante Knox

Honorable Mention - Why My Son Won't Eat With Me... / Bruce Craft

Photography:

1st - Air Show / Sean McGraw 2nd – The Beach is Calling / Kailey Wisthoff

3rd – darks and lights / Emilee Landry

Staff Pick - The Sea Speaks / Alexis Trosclair

Fine Arts:

1st - Winding Road / Laura Scronce

2nd - Yin and Yang / Ariel Bailey

3rd - The Mighty Kraken / Maddie Manuel

Staff Pick – Sea Dragon / Ariel Bailey

NSU hosting Cuban art showcase

LENA BILLAUT

NSU News Bureau

Northwestern State University of Louisiana, School of Creative and Performing Arts is pleased to present a group exhibition of new works featuring Cuban artists Reynier Llanes, Osvaldo Ferrer Miranda, Mirla Gonzales and Aliosky Garcia Sosa.

The Los Cuatro Cubanos will run from March 19-23, in Orville J. Hanchey Gallery, CAPA Annex building.

Llanes has chosen Northwestern State University of Louisiana to host his second exhibition of oil paintings, showing and sharing a spirituality art.

"My creativity comes from the energy that surrounds me," he said.

Llanes taught his process of making a portrait to CAPA students and has given to participants an insightful experience. Metaphorical art, romantic inspiration and technicality create the portrait of a recognized artist.

Black and white shapes and lines are the driving forces for Aliosky Garcia Sosa. "What can be man's greatest obsession if he is not himself?" It is these words used by the artist that allow him to advance and make the printmakings an art in their own

Garcia is an artist, printmaker, and curator who seeks to deliver a reality through these works whose the metaphor of our own world but do not leave the audience indifferent.

As for Osvaldo Ferrer Miranda, the use of color is important and a revealer of light and emotional forms. For those painting, color and portrait gives a versatility, skill, precision and overall interesting work. Ferrer captures emotions, expressions and a story through these works successfully.

For additional information please contact Leslie Gruesbeck at gruesbeckl@ nsula.edu



March 20

NSU Ballroom 6-8 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets:

\$55 per person prepaid \$60 at door

Sponsorship packages: (318) 352-6268



Featuring guest speaker Laryssa Bonacquisti Miss Louisiana 2017

SPORTS MARCH 14, 2018



Photo by Chris Reich/NSU Photographic Services

Tennis on top

DOUG IRELAND

NSU Sports Information Director

The red-hot Northwestern State Lady Demons tennis team, quickly on top in the league standings, tries to complete a road sweep Monday in a noon Southland Conference visit to Nicholls.

A rainy forecast for Sunday resulted in the match being pushed back to Monday.

NSU (7-5 overall, 3-0 in the Southland) has first place in the conference thanks to a pair of 4-3 wins, at home in the Southland opener over Sam Houston and Friday at McNeese. The Lady Demons have won six of their last seven matches overall.

Nicholls is 8-3 overall and 1-1 in the conference after winning a home match afternoon Saturday Stephen F. Austin.

Friday, comebacks powered NSU over McNeese. In the decisive No. 1 match to settle the opening doubles point, Polina Mutel and Polina Ivanova fell behind 4-0 but fought back for a 7-5 victory. The decisive point clinching the overall match victory came from Judit Castillo in the fifth singles slot as she rebounded for a 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 triumph to put the Lady Demons ahead 4-2.

Mutel, a 6-4, 6-3 winner at No. 1 Friday, has the team's best overall singles mark at 8-3 while Castillo is 6-2.

Mutel and Ivanova are 8-2 to set the pace in doubles for NSU.

After the visit to Nicholls, the Lady Demons are home weekend, Saturday next against Southeastern Louisiana and Sunday facing New Orleans in a pair of 11 a.m. matches at the Jack Fisher Tennis Complex.



Junior Mikayla Brown pitches.

Photo by Sean McGraw

Softball gets first sweep since 2015 against Lamar

NSU Assistant Director of Communications

S ophomore Julie Rawls quickly found the broom in the locker room Saturday, waving it around after Northwestern State swept Lamar with a 7-0 win in the series finale.

Pitchers Micaela Bouvier and Mikayla Brown combined on the shutout, while NSU took advantage of Lamar mistakes to prompt the broom parade.

NSU (15-7, 3-0 Southland Conference) returned the favor against Lamar (11-12, 0-3 SLC), who swept the Lady Demons in four meetings in 2017 and had won six of the last seven in the series.

The sweep is NSU's first since late 2015 when the Lady Demons accomplished the feat against Stephen F. Austin.

"It's very tough in this conference to get a sweep, conference," said NSU coach Donald Pickett. "This sets the tone for conference play.

"We got good pitching, and we didn't set the world on fire on offense. But we were able to take advantage of a couple of [Lamar] mistakes. It's really hard to come out today after two games [Friday], but we were ready and able to take advantage of their early mistakes."

Bouvier (7-1) pitched four innings of no-hit softball before Brown closed out the final three innings with three hits allowed.

For Bouvier, she's won her last five outings and lowered her season ERA to 1.81.

On Saturday, eight of her 12 outs were fly outs (mostly shallow), including five of the first six outs. She worked around an error and a walk.

"We've all been working really hard, and it's just taking what you practice during the week and staying

a very competitive calm and collected," Bouvier said. "[The sweep] is a great feeling, and it's great to see the hard work pay off."

NSU struck for four runs in the third inning to break the finale open.

The Lady Demons recorded just one hit in that frame, but NSU took advantage of two walks, one base runner via a strike three wild pitch and two fielder's choices that resulted in no

Freshman Cayla Jones supplied the first RBI on a fielder's choice, resulting in Jones providing the goahead RBI in all three wins this weekend.

Julie Rawls drew a basesloaded walk before Hayley Barbazon knocked in two more runs with an RBI single for a 4-0 edge.

"I've been hitting it right at people, so I knew I had change something," Barbazon said. "I scooted up in the box, and stood

more straight up instead of bending down.

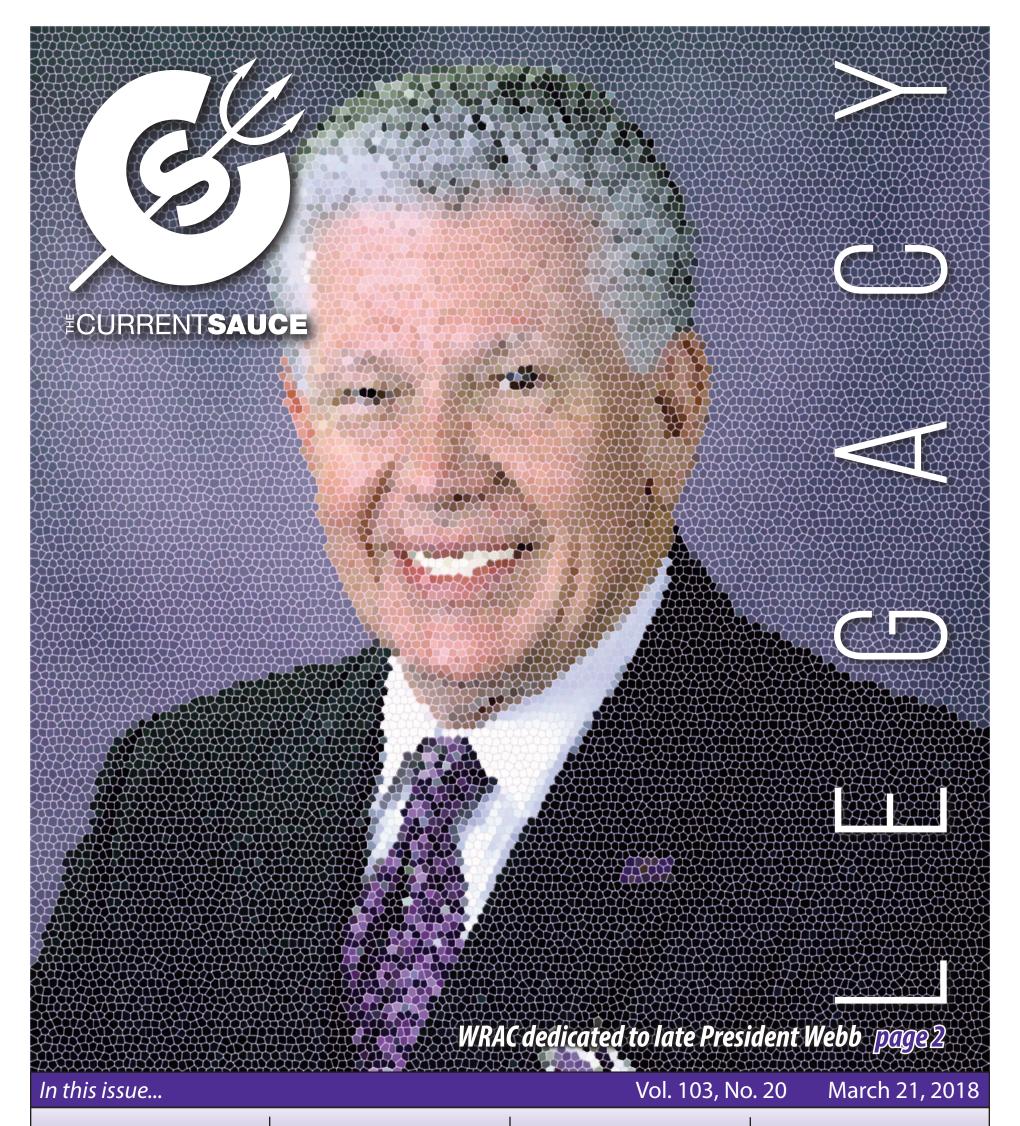
"I hit it right up the middle, and I'm starting to get my stuff together. I trust everyone who's up in the lineup, and we trust each other, and it's working."

Jones (2-for-3, 4 RBIs) put an exclamation mark on NSU's sixth straight win when she walloped a threerun home run in the sixth inning.

Jones' home run came after singles by Hebert and Sidney Salmans. It's her second of the series and fifth of the season.

Lamar pitcher Laura Napoli (4-7) gets the loss after four runs on just one hit in 2 1-3 innings.

NSU returns to action this coming weekend when they head to Abilene Christian for a three-game series. The Wildcats (8-12, 2-1 SLC) won a pair of games at Southeastern in the opening weekend.



NEWS

New Media students' artwork on display in CAPA

FEATURE

Greek organizations dedicated to philanthropy

ARTS & LIVING

Natchitoches to host first annual film festival

SPORTS

Football prepares for 2018 season with first spring practices

MARCH 21, 2018

March 13

Drug Law Violation 1702 hours **University Columns** Arrests made

Fire

2336 hours University Place I Fire extinguished

March 14

Theft

1553 hours Student Union Suspect identified

1655 hours University Place II

Criminal Mischief 1903 hours Varnado Hall Person identified

March 15

Simple Battery 0153 hours University Place I Victim deciting to press charges or not

March 16

Threats 1448 hours Varnado Hall

March 17

Drug & Liquor Law Violation 0034 hours **University Columns** Referred to housing for discipline

March 18

Drug Law Violation 1728 hours Tarlton Drive Summons issued

March 19

Simple Battery 0252 hours University Place II Suspect identified

Police Blotter WRAC dedicated to Webb



Brenda Webb thanks NSU for dedicating the WRAC to her late husband.

Photo by Sean McGraw

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

hat started as a simple Student Government Association resolution to honor the late Dr. Randall J. Webb turned into a series of activities on what would have been his 75th birthday, March 20. He died of cancer on Nov. 18, 2015, less than a year after his retirement.

Sponsored by four SGA senators, including Academic Affairs Commissioner Jacob Ellis, SR.F.2017-02 passed in November 2017 to rename the Wellness, Recreation and Activities Center after Webb.

Ellis was inspired to draft the resolution so future Demons would know "this man did great things on our campus," even if they didn't know him personally.

"Dr. Webb did so many great things for this university," he said. "We thought that we should honor his memory [now] because the last group of students that actually knew him as president ... is about to graduate."

Tuesday's activities included a reception and ceremony renaming WRAC in Webb's honor and a baseball tailgate at Brown-Stroud Field before the Louisiana Tech game. At the game, honorary seats, the first pitch and commemorative pennants for fans were dedicated to the family.

The WRAC was selected because it was one of several facilities either built or renovated during Webb's presidency. Α student passed with referendum percent approval in fall 1998 to renovate the Intramural building into the multipurpose WRAC. The \$6.9 million project finished

in 2004, the same year in which enrollment during his presidency peaked.

"Webb's legacy will be as a giant in the history of the university that he loved," Dr. Jim Henderson, NSU's 18th president, said in a press release after Webb's death.

NSU's 17th and longestserving president, Webb graduated from the university in 1965 and again in 1966. He later received a doctorate in education from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1971.

After more than two decades as a teacher and administrator, Webb returned to NSU in 1989 as dean of instruction and graduate studies and professor of mathematics. He was president from July 1, 1996, until his retirement on Dec. 31, 2014, and was named president emeritus.

SGA Minutes: Senators discuss student concerns

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

The Northwestern State Student Government Association cabinet emphasized the importance of discussing student issues at the March meeting. Senators were asked to present any concerns they are aware of.

President Tre Nelson announced that SGA will visit NSU's satellite campuses to talk with their respective administrations, and more importantly, the students. Senators will visit Alexandria April 18 and Leesville April 25. Student Activities Board members will also attend and host crawfish boils at each campus.

"I was able to visit Leesville last year and the students had some legitimate concerns that we were able to address," Nelson said.

He started discussion about replacing fountains buildings on campus with newer models that have the overhead stream of water to fill up water bottles. He asked senators for building suggestions; among those mentioned were Morrison Hall, Russell Hall and the Human Health and Performance building.

The senate deliberated about parking lot signage on campus and difficulties with getting the signs put up. One senator suggested that parking stickers for next year have more visible colors indicating whether they are a student living on campus, commuter, or a faculty or staff member to match the colors on the new signs.

The Current Sauce planning April blog launch

Calling all aspiring bloggers: The Current Sauce wants to provide platform to brand yourself on Nolia, a new blog subsection of the newspaper's website derived from the word "magnolia."

students looking to launch a new blog or simply spread the content they already create to a wider audience are invited to apply on OrgSync now through April 6. There will be an informational meeting Friday, March 23 at 1 p.m. to learn more and ask questions, or email thecurrentsauce@

Whether the medium is writing, video, photography or audio, Nolia is well equipped to be a creative outlet and an opportunity to build a portfolio. The new project, led by Editorin-Chief Alec Horton and Managing Editor Samantha Maiette, is aiming for a mid-April launch.

"We're hoping this blog encourages the NSU creatively community to engage," Horton said. "It can be intimidating to build a website or audience from

nothing, so Nolia can help give someone the initial push."

Upon launch, bloggers will need to provide the following:

- A unique name for your blog
- A good headshot
- A topic to base your blog
- Four posts upon launch

After a trial period, The Current Sauce will consider expanding Nolia to host faculty, staff and alumni blogs if there is interest. Email thecurrentsauce@gmail.com to express this interest.

MARCH 21, 2018

Student starts designated driver service

JACOB BENNETT & SAMANTHA CLARK Contributing Writers

Living in a small town has its benefits, but also its disadvantages - one being a lack of driving services and transportation. This leaves Natchitoches college students in a bind when they want to go out and party but don't want to be designated drivers.

That's where Northwestern State University sophomore Reagan Escudé comes in. Using Twitter as her sole advertising method, Escudé has become a designated driver for NSU students who wouldn't otherwise have a safe ride home.

Escudé saw this as an opportunity to pocket cash and increase the safety of students.

"It's a way to make extra, easy money, and it benefits both parties involved," she

believes there's a prominence of drunk driving in Natchitoches, and wants to help minimize it.

She started this service in January with a simple tweet:

'Starting a driving service in Natchitoches for anyone who might need a ride on the weekends!! My car fits up to 4 people. I'll charge for distance per person. DM me for my number & RT to spread the word!!!"

Now her business is getting promoted through local bars and businesses.

"If I have the information I can promote for [Escudé] and help her out," said Ron Bolton, owner of local club The Edge.

Escudé mainly has positive experiences with her service, and so do her customers.

"All good," junior Ragan Aple said. "No bad. It's convenient because she's always on time and ready to pick you up and drop you off whenever you need her."

Escudé charges \$10 per ride, will drive from I-49 to the Marina and offers service every other weekend Thursday through Saturday. For more information, contact Reagan Escudé on Twitter at @reaganescude

Beta Alpha Psi hosts crawfish boil

ZOE ALMARAZ Reporter

To raise money for children in Africa and fund their trip to a national meeting, new business fraternity Alpha Psi hosted their first annual crawfish boil March

Imani Ricks, treasurer of the organization, said this crawfish boil was a way for them to start saving money for future use since their 2017 establishment. This money would be used for events like another crawfish recruitment conferences.

"We're also taking 25 percent of the proceeds to donate to the children in Africa for necessities," Ricks said. "They don't really have shoes, clothes, water, any of that."

Beta Alpha Psi plans to host this crawfish boil for a different cause each year. They will start recruitment events in the fall by reaching out to alumni and specialized areas of the business department.

"I'd like to see some professional connections with our business fraternities the community," Assistant Professor Beth Prejean said.

This seems likely since



Junior Jessie Negrotto, left, and sophomore Victoria Lucas stir crawfish.

Photo by Sean McGraw

Ricks expressed desire to align Beta Alpha Psi with the larger Natchitoches community as well as the other business fraternities. Outreach efforts have already begun through this event.

Among the attendees, there were faculty and alumni from the business, psychology, and English departments.

Stave, professor of English in the Scholars' College, said she found out from students selling tickets for the event, while others heard found out via flyers and NSU's daily Student Messenger email.

"I think it was a really good way to raise money," Stave said. "They really could not have done it on a nicer day, and to do it on a Friday was

really strategic." Stave and others were pleased with the food's taste

and said they would likely attend next year.

With the success of this event, the organization is making plans for upcoming years to help business students grow and foster new connections with their communities and colleagues.

New Media Student Showcase honors late Robert Crew

EMMA BURLET

Reporter

To celebrate students accomplishments, the Department New Media, Journalism, and Communication developed the New Media Student Showcase. Work is on display in Gallery 2 of the Creative and Performing Arts Annex through March 31.

Christian Boudreaux, a student whose work is featured, thinks the showcase is exciting because it brings attention to students' skills in the department.

"It's a way to showcase and celebrate a lot of the creative things that some of the students are doing here on campus," Boudreaux said.

NSU alumna and Instructor Emily Zering believes this event will demonstrate students' progress and the effort put into their work.

"We wanted an event to show off what the art students were doing in a visual capacity, because they really haven't had that opportunity on campus before," she said.

Also featured in the exhibit, Racheal Gaude said this gives the students a chance to show creativity.

"The show is more about the artistic side of

journalism," she said. "I think it's giving NSU's [communication] students a chance to show their journalism works in a creative light, which is a fun twist."

The department will host a reception March 22 in Orville J. Hanchey Gallery from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Robert Crew, former executive assistant to NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, will be honored in both the reception and showcase.

The photographic studio in the CAPA Annex was named after Crew in 2013, when he retired, to recognize his contributions to the

art program. His death in January inspired Jacque Crew to establish the Robert G. Crew Endowed Scholarship for media and journalism students.

"Robert had talked about establishing scholarship in grandfather's name," Jacque Crew said in a February press release announcing the scholarship. "I thought this would be a good way to honor Robert."

This scholarship, along with other awards, will be presented to students at the reception. Guests can RSVP nsulastudentshowcase.



Greek organizations assist those in need

JORDAN REICH *Associate Editor*

Ollege Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, National Interfraternity Music Council – no matter the organization, all have one common aspect: philanthropy.

Greek sororities and fraternities each have their own unique philanthropy efforts from education initiatives to raising awareness for their respective programs. Some organizations sell goods at bake sales or collect items for those in need.

Pi Kappa Phi held The Puppy Experience March 14; the event raises awareness for Natchitoches Hope for Paws, a non-profit dog rescue, and Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy, The Ability Experience, aimed at "enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities."

The fraternity also participates in two cycling events, Journey of Hope and Gear up Florida, and volunteers at Ability Camps, which makes areas accessible to those with disabilities. Members Thomas Marlbrough and Tucker Ellis are currently in Guatemala helping with an Ability Camp there.

Phi Mu recently held two bake sales, raising \$233 to benefit the Phi Mu Foundation, which in turn helps the chapter with their philanthropy and educational programs, as well as scholarships and leadership opportunities.

They will also contribute over \$2000 raised from their annual M3 Campaign where each sister in the chapter donates \$18.52. The amount was inspired by the founding of the fraternity in 1852.

"It is really cool to think that my donation could be helping a sister across the country," Public Relations Chairman Maria Rome said.

Kappa Alpha Psi partnered with Phi Mu earlier this semester with a "Don't Drink and Drive" pledge and frequently volunteers around campus. Their fraternity puts a special emphasis on helping the local community, visiting the Boys & Girls Club and local schools.

"We don't limit ourselves to just [our national philanthropy]," said Darius Brock, community service chairman.

Likewise, Theta Chi Vice President Dakota Brogdon said their chapter helps anywhere they can.

"No matter what your philanthropy is, as long as you get involved with it, it's very humbling," he said. "You get a sense of accomplishment, [and] you feel good knowing you helped someone. That's our motto: an assisting hand."

Others take their national programs and incorporate the initiatives into service efforts in the Natchitoches community.

Alpha Kappa Alpha, Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta each have educational programs, including ASCEND and Adopt-A-School.

As part of ASCEND – which stands for Achievement, Self-Awareness, Communication, Engagement, Networking and Developmental Skills – Alpha Kappa Alpha members mentor high school girls. They also collect backpacks for the One Million Backpacks campaign; last year, they collected the most backpacks in the South Central region.

Phi Beta Sigma Second Vice President and Director of Education Justin Guillory said his chapter participates in Reading Days at Cloutierville Elementary and Junior High School,



FILE - Members of Kappa Sigma, left, Phi Mu and Tri Sigma at "Chillin' and Grillin' with the Greeks" Aug. 23, 20

called "Sigma Storytime."

They recently helped play math games at Natchitoches Junior High's Leap Night and have helped with Black History programs and school supplies drives.

Zeta Phi Beta held Finer Womanhood Week March 11-17, promoting the values of their sorority while also raising money for March of Dimes. Part of the week included the first ever Mr. Blue and White Scholarship Pageant where "their biggest talent is their GPAs." Jamien Sampson, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and sophomore at the Louisiana Scholars' College, won the pageant.

Shanevia Houston, president of Zeta Phi Beta, said philanthropy and service is crucial because people are usually focused on themselves and not others.

"Philanthropy is important because it gives individuals the opportunity to improve human wellbeing and promote positive changes in the community," she said. "We are able to ... provide services that some people don't have access to and generally encourage unity in society."

E ach fraternity or sorority also has signature events throughout the year aimed at raising larger sums of money for their respective philanthropies and foundations.

Dancing with the Sigmas – modeled after reality show "Dancing with the Stars" – is one of Sigma Sigma Sigma's most popular events, pairing a dancer from the sorority with a prominent Natchitoches community member.

Beka Aultman, chairwoman and four-time dancer for Dancing with the Sigmas, emphasized the hard work ghand

17, during Demon Days welcome activities.

Photos by Justin Burr/Potpourri

that goes into planning the event that benefits their philanthropies, Sigma Serves Children and March of Dimes.

"It takes all [112] of us [in the chapter] to put it on," she said. "Not only is it hard work to make an event happen, it's hard work to make an event happen for the best cause possible."

Though organizing an event of such magnitude can be challenging, Aultman said it is worth every second.

"It's really nice to know that whenever we're ... raising the money, it's not just going off to somewhere," she said. "It's going [to local kids] and helping kids here."

Alpha Omicron Pi organizes their annual spring event benefiting the Arthritis Foundation, Strike Out Arthritis. This is the second year the event has been a kickball tournament.

Philanthropy Chair Hannah Boquet highlighted the personal connections between some of the sisters and their national philanthropy, showing not only that most people know someone with arthritis, but they may be closer than you think.

AOII sister Brittney Jacob shared that she was diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a type of arthritis, in high

"When I went through recruitment [at NSU], AOII's philanthropy was one of the main reasons I joined," she said. "I am proud to be part of an organization that brings awareness to this disorder."

Those personal connections between people also inspired freshman Spencer Naber, philanthropy chairman for Sigma Nu. He helped develop the idea for the Nu Image Art Gala after his uncle, an artist, passed away last year.

"This is a huge tribute to him," he said. "It's mainly about St. Jude's. But



for me, personally, I'm trying to do it for him."

All proceeds from the gala tickets and art auction, which will be held April 13, will benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

One of Kappa Sigma's big annual events includes their spring Crawfish Boil, which benefits the Military Heroes Campaign. The campaign's purpose is to serve United States veterans and help with their lives after serving in the military.

Kappa Sigma will also host a sand volleyball tournament March 23 at the fraternity's house on South Jefferson Street; it costs \$40 for a four-person team to enter and all proceeds will go to charity.

Jackson Carroll, philanthropy chairman and community service chairman of Kappa Sigma, pointed out that though philanthropy is about helping others, it comes with practical benefits as well.

"It teaches young men to give their time and efforts to something much bigger than themselves ... [and] how to become better leaders at planning events, handling funds, and communication skills with others," he

ther organizations such as Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a music fraternity - though not usually referred to as part of Greek Life - create inventive and interactive ways to raise money for "advancing music in America." They host an annual game of Assassin, and part of the proceeds benefit their goal to share music with others.

"We always try to bring music to schools that either don't have music programs or ... buy musical instruments or stands and bring them to local schools," Treasurer Logan Turner said.

Tau Beta Sigma, a co-ed band sorority, shares some of the same goals as Phi Mu Alpha. President Eric Pannell said philanthropy, especially when involving the arts, is important to recognize and participate in.

"We show that we work for a good

cause and that people still believe in that cause," he said. "[Our effort] also helps promote band programs because, sadly, band programs are one of the first programs to lose funding."

Sigma Alpha Iota, another music fraternity, donates their time and money to music programs in the Natchitoches area, and in April will have a car wash fundraiser.

"We felt that it was important to support these programs because as musicians and musician advocates we want students to have the same or better opportunities to participate in music as we did," President Jackie Coleman said.

More information about Greek Life can be found online at www.nsula.edu/ greeklife/

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Dancing with the Sigmas

March 21, 7 p.m.

A.A. Fredericks Auditorium



Volleyball Tournament

March 23, 5 p.m. Kappa Sigma House



Strike Out Arthritis

April 21, 10 a.m. Organizational Row



Nu Image Art Gala

April 13, 6:30 p.m.
Orville J. Hanchey G Orville J. Hanchey Gallery



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Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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City to host inaugural film festival

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Reporter

Natchitoches will host the first annual Cane River Film Festival March 23-24. This event celebrates the 30-year anniversary of "Steel Magnolias," which was famously filmed in Natchitoches.

Kelly Jackson, founder and producer of the festival, emphasized the connection the city has with film.

"Natchitoches has a long and intimate history with American cinema," she said. "The Cane River Film Festival represents the latest chapter in that history. We are as diverse as the community that we represent."

Students and filmmakers from across the state will present their work, including Northwestern State University graduates Hammond Lake and Sidney Jackson.

Lake is also a panelist on the "Louisiana Independent Filmmakers" professional guest Q&A. His film "What's Safe" is about a struggling marriage and infidelity.

During his time at NSU, Lake co-founded the Student Film Society. He graduated in 2016 with degrees in English and liberal arts with concentrations in film studies

Historic Downtown Natchitoches

Movie Night under the stars-live entertainment Great food

GIVEAWAYS Entertainment Industry Business expo

Celebrates "Steel Magnolias" 30 year Anniversary

MARCH 23-24, 2018

GANE RIVER FILM FESTIVAL

FILM STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

WWW.CANERIVER FILM FESTIVAL

GOVERNMENT FILM FESTIVAL

FILM STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

WWW.CANERIVER FILM FESTIVAL

GOVERNMENT FILM FESTIVAL

CONTROL

CON

and fine and performing arts, respectively. Lake is currently studying advertising at Southern Methodist University's Temerlin Advertising Institute.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (318) 505-0466

"It's a great feeling having the chance to have a short film shown in Natchitoches," he said. "To embrace this cinematic past with a festival that highlights current

Pick your Passion

local filmmakers is a rare opportunity that I'm glad to be part of."

Other panels include "Steel Magnolias Film Sites Inside View" with NSU Professor Emeritus Tommy Whitehead and Jerry Pierce, NSU vice president for external affairs, and a session with Bob Mora, Jr., a two-time Emmy Award winner and producer of popular television shows "America's Next Top Model" and "The Amazing Race."

Outside of film, the festival features live performances by Indigeaux, Cane River Soul, Rick Pierce, De'Lontrell Thomas and DeShawn Washington, an NSU alumnus who previously performed on NBC's "The Voice."

There are also historic horse and carriage rides and walking tours through the historic district of Natchitoches, several different food options and vendors, and family friendly activities for both children and adults.

The Cane River Film Festival begins March 23 and ends March 24 with an 8 p.m. showing of "Steel Magnolias" on the Riverbank Stage. Admission is \$10 for adults and free for children under 12. A full schedule of events can be found at caneriverfilmfestival.com





Monday, March 26
Raising Awareness Event

with NSU's Counseling Services 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Student Union Lobby

Tuesday, March 27
Guest Speaker Ross Szabo
6 p.m., Student Union Ballroom

Wednesday, March 28 Letting Go of Stress with the WRAC 6-8 p.m., LSMSA Gym MARCH 21, 2018 ARTS & LIVING 7



The Eyes of Argus

Why I Work

THOMAS EASTERLING *Argus 1990*

I've got peanut butter 'n jelly sandwich making perfected.

Used to be I'd spread the extra-crunchy Jiff too hard and I'd tear the bread and get pissed off, or I'd put too little jelly on it and gag on most every bite. Now the stuff slides from my knife to the slice like honey, quick and easy. I've had two a day for about four months. Lots of protein,

lots of cheap energy.

It's almost fun, you know –
I've learned to work
the peanut butter into the shape
of two New York strips
that pretty much cover a piece
of bread, and I match up
the jelly on the other slice
to look like A-l steak sauce.
Hell, I can even convince
myself it tastes like that
until I swallow the first bite,
and it goes down my throat,
stopping at every lump
along the way.

Usually I eat them with the door closed and the blinds drawn, so no one can see me.

I feel like such an animal, feeding my face and licking the sticky residue from my fingers. It's kind of embarrassing how hungry people lose control.



'Play-A-Thon for Orlando' March 26

LEAH JACKSON

NSU Director of Public Information and Media Relations

The Northwestern State University Music Academy and NSU's Music Teacher National Association collegiate chapter will host "Play-A-Thon for Orlando" to raise funds to assist a fellow student and instructor with medical expenses. Proceeds will benefit Orlando Enrique Gonzalez Trucco, recently diagnosed with cancer. The fund raiser will be from 4:30-8:30 p.m. March 26 in Magale Recital Hall.

Gonzalez, a music student from Cartagena, Colombia, is an instructor for the NSU Music Academy. He was awarded a scholarship to attend NSU in 2014 and since his arrival has been a busy teacher and entertainer on and off campus. He is the lead vocalist for Larry's Group, a popular ensemble comprised primarily of music



Photo reproduced with permission

Music student Orlando Enrique Gonzalez Trucco
will be the beneficiary of a fundraiser to help
pay for cancer treatment.

students from Colombia, and regularly performs at local churches, community functions and live music venues.

Students from the Music Academy, who range in age from elementary age to high school, are seeking sponsorships to perform at the play-a-thon and are collecting donations. They will prepare pieces

to perform as solos or groups and will select times starting at 4:30 p.m. to perform. Larry's Group will perform at 7:30 p.m.

"We are hosting the Play-a-Thon for Orlando in response to the sudden hospitalization of our teacher, musician and friend," said Francis Yang, NSU professor and director of the Natchitoches Music Academy. "Orlando and his family need financial help for his treatment and the recovery process. This play-a-thon is especially meaningful as he is a mentor and teacher of many students from the NSU Music Academy."

Checks can be made to NSU CAPA with Orlando written in the memo. For more information, or to sponsor the Play-a-Thon, contact Yang at yangf@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-5763.

Friends can also support Gonzalez through a GoFundMe account at https://www.gofundme.com/todos-por-orly.



Students to present International Festival next week

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Reporter

Northwestern State University students in multiple departments will present the International Festival of Culture and Cuisines in Downtown Natchitoches March 27.

This International Festival will showcase food, music, games and other features of cultures worldwide, including Louisiana, Morocco, Latin America, China, France, Italy, Greece, Australia, Hawaii, Ireland, Jamaica and Germany.

Each booth will serve food and drinks from their respective cultures. Jamaica will serve rum cake; France, croissants with Nutella; alcoholic beverages such as beer will be served in Ireland and Louisiana, and wine will be served in Italy, France and Hawaii.

The event will also feature performers such as Chinese Dragon dancers, Irish cloggers, and Moroccan belly dancers. Live music will be provided by the Back Porch Band and Metamorphosis.

Dr. Lynn Woods, professor in the hospitality and tourism department, said a huge focus of the festival is on students and the hands-on experience they get from participating in the festival.

"When they graduate, one of the main things they will be involved with is producing and planning special events like fairs, festivals, parades and the sort," she said. "Regardless of their capacity, they will be involved with these events."

She also pointed out the hard work of culinary arts students involved and their role in preparing the food.

"They have to research the countries, and the foods that they will be serving will be indigenous of those countries," Woods said.

The International Festival will take place March 27, 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Front Street. There is no admission cost, but tickets for food and wine can be purchased at the Germany booth for \$1. All the proceeds go toward the NSU Hospitality Foundation.

8 SPORTS MARCH 21, 2018

Football prepares for 2018 season

SAMANTHA MAIETTE Managing Editor

fter finishing seventh the Southland Conference standings last year, the NSU football team is gearing up for the 2018 season.

Since the end of last season, the Demons have undergone a series of transitions, starting at the top of the program with Brad Laird accepting the head coach position in November 2017.

himself Surrounding with "good people" is what allowed Laird to transition from defensive coordinator to head coach easier. These good people come in the form of his assistant coaches and his secretary, who "keeps [him] on track."

Senior offensive lineman Chris Zirkle described the transition as "smooth" but mentioned some players decided to discontinue their collegiate football careers.

'We've had a few people drop out due to what coaches have been asking for," the offensive lineman said.

Despite the loss some athletes, the new Trinity transfers from



New Head Coach Brad Laird walks on the field during one of the year's first spring practices.

Valley Community College been transitioning

teammates.

Improvement and bettering the team is the main message Laird and his staff have been stressing to the Demons Photo by Sean McGraw

during their off-season. "We focus on the now and not the past," he said in response to last season. "That's how we approach

Though Laird's focus is on the here and now, players look to the accomplishments of past years for inspiration.

"We want to bring our best every day we're out on the field and bring tradition back to Natchitoches," Forde said.

The tradition Forde refers to is bringing in Southland Conference championships, just as teams in the past did.

"They were the top dogs of the Southland," Zirkle said.

To reach this goal, Laird and his staff stress the importance of becoming mentally tough, consistent and knowing how to face adversity.

The road to achieving this emphasizes the need to hold each player accountable not only during athletic training, but in the players' everyday lives. This includes making sure each player is going to class, finishing homework, dressing well and performing well on the field, Laird explained.

The Demons begin their 2018 season Aug. 30 against Texas A&M before returning to Harry S. Turpin Stadium in their quest to secure a Southland Conference title once again.

have

to Natchitoches and the

team well, said junior safety

Nicholas Forde of his new

Toni Herbert slaps Assistant Coach Amy Hooks' hand.

Photo by Sean McGraw

Pickett 'so proud' of softball team

HOLLY JENKINS Reporter

The 2018 Southland Conference season is off to a successful start for the Lady Demons after sweeping Lamar University in a threegame series March 9-10.

The sweep was the team's first in the Southland Conference since 2015, but not their first of the regular season.

In fact, the Lady **Demons** completed four sweeps this season. The Lamar sweep came right after another the previous weekend, March 2-3, when the Lady Demons swept Arkansas-Pine Bluff in a three-game series with a 7-0 score in the final game.

"I'm just so proud of the girls," Head Coach Donald Pickett said. "The Southland Conference is really competitive, and it is not easy to complete a sweep like that ... Hopefully we can continue to build off of this momentum and continue what we started."

"We've been working really hard at practice," sophomore outfielder Madelyn Matt said. "We didn't play as well during pre-season, so it's been great seeing all of our hard work pay

off lately."

The Lady Demons' current record is 17-8 overall and 3-1 in the Southland Conference.

Pickett said their success is due to constant hard work and dedication in morning workouts, classwork and afternoon practice.

"A lot more goes in to preparing for games than just showing up on game day," Pickett said. "It's more detailed than people may think."

The Lady Demons Abilene on Christian University March 16-17 followed Louisiana Tech on March 21. A full schedule can be found at nsudemons.com



NEWS

NSU denies allegations of mold in dorms

FEATURE

Infielder David Fry fights his way into NSU Baseball records

SPORTS

Tennis continues winning streak with match against SFA

ARTS & LIVING

Flavor of Louisiana spices up fundraising with seafood

March 19

Hit and Run 1501 hours Parking Lot 5

March 20

Property Damage 1011 hours E-Lab School

Drug Law Violation 1424 hours University Place II Summons issued

March 21

Unauthorized Media 1000 hours Various Locations Media removed

Fraud 1242 hours CAPA Monetary funds returned

March 22

Cyber Stalking 1345 hours Off Campus

Drug Law Violation 1607 hours Varnado Hall Reported to housing for discipline

Drug Law Violation 1649 hours University Place I

March 24

Burglary 1439 hours University Place I

March 25

Suspicious Person 0136 hours University Columns Person removed from campus

Police Blotter Student attends Washington **March for Our Lives rally**

Editor-in-Chief

The Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, caught the nation's attention, like other school shootings. But this time, the gun control movement gained traction in a way never seen

More than 700 March for Our Lives protests nationwide occurred Saturday to catch lawmakers' attention, including at least 10 in Louisiana.

NSU student Jacob Bennett attended the Washington rally Saturday, citing inaction from the government as the driving force behind his participation.

"I am not content with doing nothing," Bennett said. "I believe there are actions Congress can take to make us safer, and if that's true, they're only going to do it if the people put the pressure on them."

junior strategic communications major stayed at alumnus Kip Patrick's home in Washington after two faculty members put them in touch and helped fund the

"It was definitely a moving and humbling experience,' Bennett said.

Though he disagrees with the movement's proposed assault weapon ban, Bennett is on board with everything else.

"I don't think the March for Our Lives movement is perfect," he said. "But it's



Photo by Rosa Pineda

People march in the streets of Washington to demand stricter gun control laws

definitely the gun movement with the most momentum so far and because of that, I wanted to support it."

Bennett is also in favor of requiring gun training programs similar to driver's education, though he thinks this is unlikely.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards doesn't believe arming teachers is a "good idea," and said he would oppose legislation allowing teachers to carry concealed weapons at school.

"I think we need to focus on other school safety measures," he said in a press conference last week.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, released Saturday statement supporting protesters' First Amendment rights but called for compromise in lobbying for change, citing Florida's recent ban of bump stocks as an example that soon may sweep the nation.

"Making a change requires finding common ground with those who hold opposing views," Rubio said. "And finding common ground is what it will take to pass our red flag law so we can take guns away from dangerous people."

At a recent town hall hosted and televised by CNN, Stoneman Douglas student and gun control advocate Cameron Kasky challenged Rubio to stop accepting money from the National Rifle Association. Rubio didn't agree to this and claimed money plays no factor in his policy decisions.

"The influence of these groups comes not from money," Rubio said. "The influence comes from the millions of people that agree with the agenda, the millions of Americans that support the

SGA Minutes: Spring break, April events

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

Safe Spring Break will be March 29, 11-1 p.m. on Kyser Brickway. SGA will serve food and provide information on how to stav informed and aware of potential dangers over break.

There were, however, complications ordering the towel giveaways for Safe Spring Break. Senators discussed potential options for giveaways on Thursday, including water bottles, lanyards and sunglasses. SGA decided to order the towels despite complications to use for future events such as Late Night Breakfast.

NSU will provide transportation April 11 for students to attend ULS Day, a yearly event advocating for higher education at the state capitol; their goal is to bring 500 NSU students. Students will leave campus at 7 a.m. to travel to Baton Rouge, and activities will be held 11-2:30 p.m. SGA President Tre Nelson said details are still being finalized.

Registration for ULS Day can be found online at www.eventbrite.com/e/ uls-day-at-the-capitoltickets-43884641143

SGA elections will open April 17 at 8 a.m. and close April 18. Appointments were also made to the Election Board Committee, which provides oversight for the elections to make sure they are fair.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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NSU denies allegations of mold in dorms

ZOE ALMARAZ *Reporter*

D espite recent renovations, Northwestern State University's Varnado Hall is no stranger to unsatisfied residents.

Originally, the residence hall was criticized for maintenance issues, a lack of promised amenities and strict rules which were met with affirmations from the university that this was what students signed up for, and nothing was guaranteed to be completed upon arrival.

In early March, student Shelby Loftin posted on the Northwestern State Student Concerns Facebook group photos of the mold, but the post was quickly removed. Loftin said this was because of profane language and for "calling out" Dean of Students Frances Conine.

In the post, Loftin acknowledged NSU did move her to another room on campus after her complaint last semester, but she said she was not allowed to break her lease.

Shreveport-based media outlet KTBS published a story March 15 that featured Loftin and roommate McKay Crews



FILE - Signage outside Varnado Hall

Photo by Alec Horton

detailing the issue.

"It worried me as to how it happened, especially since I had not worn them," Crews said to KTBS of a pair of sandals that looked to have mold on them. "Everybody always gets sick, and we don't know why."

The sandals were just one example provided by Crews. Loftin posted photos on Facebook of other shoes and surfaces in her room that appeared to have mold growing on them. She also claimed her doctor acknowledged her living conditions aggravated her asthma.

NSU said Loftin's photos could not be verified, and spokesperson Leah Jackson said there was no mold found in Loftin's room after an inspection by housing officials.

"Initially, there were some issues with plumbing and

dampness, but those issues were resolved and no mold was detected," according to the statement that acknowledged the October 2017 complaint.

NSU also stated it is dedicated to students' health and safety, and that no mold was detected as of the most recent dorm inspections in February.

Students are encouraged to report any maintenance needs to housing staff.

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Despite recent pay raise, NSU faculty still earn less than average

HOLLY JENKINS
Reporter

"Nobody got into teaching to make money," NSU Faculty Senate President Dr. Thomas Reynolds joked.

Higher education in Louisiana has long suffered from budget cuts across the board. On March 22, Lake Charles TV station KPLC reported that since 2008, more than \$700 million in state funding has been cut from higher education in Louisiana. Budget cuts affect faculty and staff in addition to students, often causing them to make less money than average.

According to Louisiana Board of Regents statistics, faculty pay at NSU between

We often have to pay incoming employees more than current employees to be competitive with the market. - Dr. Thomas Reynolds

11

2013 and 2016 averaged roughly \$11,600 under the state average for four-year public universities. Data for 2017 is not yet available.

"Faculty pay is a big issue," Reynolds said. "We have a pay system where we often have to pay incoming employees more than current employees to be competitive with the market."

The Faculty Senate president said they are working to make salaries more fair for long-time employees and new hires.

"We are hoping to address salary compression, which is where senior members' salaries are too close to or even below new hire salaries," Reynolds said.

Effective in the fall 2017 semester, NSU faculty received a pay raise of \$2,500. All faculty received the raise except for those who had either been hired within the last year or recently received adjustments to pay.

"The fact that we did recently have a pay raise is significant," Reynolds said. "It's a sign that the university is moving towards meeting the needs of faculty and staff. But we're still behind in appropriate compensation."

The recent pay raise for NSU faculty as well as future raises are dependent on increases in enrollment rather than increases in funding, according to Reynolds.

Although he is unsure what plans are for future raises, Reynolds has faith that the university administration is doing the best with what they have.

"NSU faculty is focused on recruiting, retaining and graduating students," he said. "Hopefully that will equate to pay raises so that student success leads to faculty success."



Now in his fourth season at NSU, in fielder David Fry has moved up school record charts and will likely continue until he graduates.



the middle of

baseball enters

their season, one member of the Northwestern State Demon Baseball team stands out as not only one of the best to play this year, but as one of the best to ever play at

Senior first baseman David Fry has been with honored numerous awards in his four-year NSU baseball career and is cementing his legacy as one of the best.

NSU.

After the last series against Texas A&M - Corpus Christi, Fry is tied for second at NSU in career doubles (59), tied for fourth in career hit by pitches (34) and fifth in total bases (343).

Fry has also tied for seventh in RBIs (119) and now eighth in home runs (23) after adding two last weekend.

The 2018 season has yet to reach its halfway point, and he is expected to tie or break other records.

For three straight seasons, Fry has been named to the second-All-Southland team Conference team and was awarded for his stellar start in the 2018 season with the Louisiana Sports Writers Association award as co-hitter in March.

His 21 doubles in the 2017 season are tied for second in NSU singleseason history while his slugging percentage was the eighth-best in school single-season history. His total bases were tied for the 10th most by a Demon in a single season.

"Dave has produced ever since he's been a freshman on the team, and he's been getting better ever since," Head Coach Bobby Barbier said. "He

deserves all the accolades.

"He's put in the time, he's put in the work, it couldn't have happened to a better guy."

> Through all of the awards and approaching the cusp of breaking NSU records, Fry has managed to stay humble through it all.

"It's an honor to play every day and help the team win." Fry said. "If I break the records it happens but winning and playing for NSU is definitely the most important thing to me."

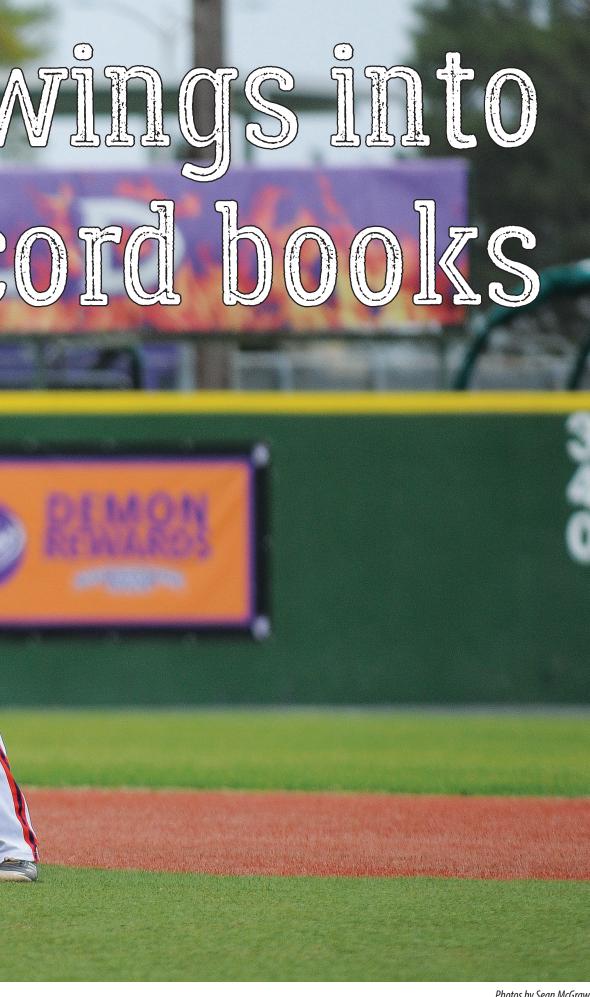
Teammates and coaches all agree that he brings more to the team than just accolades and personal accomplishments. They said he brings a sense of leadership and acts as a role model for all the other players to strive for on and off the field.

"He's outstanding," short stop and second baseman Sam Taylor said. "Everything he's done, he's worked for. He's the guy our team models to be. He gives us someone to look at, we always have confidence when he's at bat. We always feel like he'll do something to help the team win."

"He leads well, he by example," Barbier said. "When your best player is such a good leader, like he is, it always makes the team better. He's the reason for a lot of our success."

Fry and the rest of the Demons face Central Arkansas in a three game series March 29-31 and return home to play Stephen F. Austin April 6-8. A full schedule can be found at nsudemons.com





Photos by Sean McGraw



6 SPORTS MARCH 28, 2018

Tennis continues winning streak

KEATOR POLEMAN

Reporter

Rollowing a recent win against Stephen F. Austin March 24, the NSU Lady Demon Tennis team added a seventh consecutive win to their 2018 season, defeating SFA 6-1 at home.

With a 11-5 season record under their belts, the Lady Demons are preparing to face Abilene Christian on March 30, as the March 27 matches against Louisiana Tech and Grambling State were postponed. Coach Patrick DuBois said the team "feels prepared" for their matches.

DuBois mentioned that Tech is a "very good team this year," but that NSU has prepared "very well" in practices and training.

"We're confident that as we move along during this season, we will play as well as we possibly can," he said.

The tennis team has six more games before the Southland Conference in Beaumont, Texas.

Before then, the Lady Demons will play against Abilene Christian, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, University of Incarnate Word, Central Arkansas and others.

"Our trainers [and] sports



Judit Castillo swings at the tennis ball during her March 17 match against a Southeastern player.

Photo by Sean McGraw

medicine group is trying to keep us as healthy as can be," he said. "We're gonna be prepared the best we can be, and we'll just see when we get on court."

The team currently has a 7-0 record for home games

and a 3-5 record for away games.

In response to what the team plans to do to win more away games, Emilija Dancetovic, a sophomore from Serbia, said she is confident in the team's ability to follow their coach's lead and that they will "give 100 percent."

DuBois said the team has competed well during away games, but have faced some adversity with strong opponents.

"We're very comfortable

at home. We practice here every day, we know the surroundings [and] we have a great group of supporters," the head coach said.

A more detailed schedule can be found on the team's web page at nsudemons.com



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Indoor DigFest a success for volleyball, plans continue for Outdoor equivalent

KATIE BARONNE & DAMARTE FISHER

Contributing Writers

Recently promoted Assistant Coach Stacey DiFrancesco organized Northwestern State's Indoor DigFest on March 17 and is looking forward to Outdoor DigFest, currently scheduled for May 5 at the Marina.

The winning team of this year's Indoor DigFest was "Dat Ace Doe," and prizes were donated by local eatery Lasyone's.

While not her first DigFest, this was DiFrancesco's first as a full time assistant coach.

DigFest events are community-based volleyball tournaments scheduled at various times throughout the year to raise money for the volleyball team's scholarship fund, travel expenses and a new locker room.

DiFrancesco is planning more than just volleyball for Outdoor DigFest.

"I want to revamp Outdoor DigFest," the assistant coach said. "We're going to have a crawfish boil, raffles and prizes."

If your volleyball skills are not up to par, it is still possible to support the Lady Demons at DigFest.

"You can sponsor a team and get others to play for you," volleyball manager Ashtin Youngblood said.

DiFrancesco and senior middle blocker Madeline Drake stressed one of the main goals of DigFest is community involvement.

"It's a good community event where we all come together, play volleyball and have fun," Drake said.

For more information about the Lady Demon Volleyball team, visit the Northwestern State athletics website at nsudemons.com MARCH 28, 2018 ARTS & LIVING 7



Photo by Valentina Perez Espinosa
NSU graduate music student Jolie Gonzalez
Masmela dances with a partner at the
"Play-a-Thon".

Community raises money for student's treatment

EMMA BURLET

Reporter

N orthwestern University State student Orlando Enrique Gonzalez Trucco was recently diagnosed with stomach cancer and is receiving treatment in Shreveport. NSU's Music Academy and Music Teachers National Association held a "Play-a-Thon" fundraiser Monday.

The money raised will help Gonzalez with medical bills. More than \$8,000 has already been donated out of a \$10,000 goal, according to the GoFundMe page set up

for Gonzalez.

Gonzalez hails from Cartagena, Colombia, and came to the U.S. to pursue music. Besides being a student and instructor of the NSU Music Academy, Gonzalez is the lead vocalist for Larry's Group, a band comprised of Colombian NSU students.

Jolie Gonzalez Masmela, a friend of Gonzalez and fellow NSU student, knows how important the fundraiser is to help him and his family.

"The treatment is really expensive, [and] its important because we really don't have enough money to cover all the treatment he needs," Masmela said. "Anyone who knows Orlando knows that he's a wonderful person who needs our help now."

"Orlando and his family need financial help for his treatment and the recovery process," Dr. Francis Yang said in an interview with KLAX 31. Yang is an assistant professor of music and director of the Music Academy at NSU. "This Play-a-Thon is especially meaningful, as he is a mentor and teacher of many students from the NSU Music Academy."

Dr. Marcus Jones, vice todos-por-orly

president for university affairs, recruited Orlando to NSU and said Gonzalez "immediately immersed himself in the culture."

Gonzalez not only immersed himself at NSU, but also in the local community by playing at different churches.

"He's made himself part of the Natchitoches community," Jones said. "He's a loving person, a kind spirit who has a magnetic personality. There's not enough kind things I can say."

Donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/ todos-por-orly



The Eyes of Argus

History's Kept Secret

LORA SHEPPARD
Araus 2007

So they take your freedom: your life, your rights, your existence. You detainees deserved it though, With your beliefs and your faith And your fanaticism authorizing evil in the name of your own salvation.

Where is the logic, the understanding?
Lost in a world fractured when it should be more connected than it was centuries ago;
Here, where death is a button-press away Bombing and flash and thousands, thousands gone,

gone,
gone in a world of fire,
in a scorching cleansing that somehow
Nature cannot match, fickle and secret
as she is, the dark side of the world.

People that play God, play with the boundaries of life and death, and spit in the face of What Should Be and create their own, deciding another's fate as if marking off their grocery list. Check. Another culture dead and gone – buried under expectations and rules of a mastermind order that intends to bend others until they break.

Attacks and terrorism on both sides of the coin
With those responsible for crimes awash
on either side refuse see truth.
Trials that go on, farce
as if settled, the dead will rise
to thank those who fought
impossible, impossible,
and freedom is nothing but a rope
that they hold tight between them,

Available for no one.

Flavor of Louisiana spices up fundraising with seafood

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Managing Editor

Cajun spices, savory seafood and lively music greeted attendees walking into Prather Coliseum.

The second annual Flavor of Louisiana took place Friday night, with the proceeds benefiting NSU Foundation scholarships and different NSU colleges and departments.

After last year's inaugural event, the NSU Alumni Center and the NSU Foundation decided to build on its success.

"We were thrilled with the success of last year's Flavor of Louisiana," said event coordinator Rebekah Burleson. "The guests mingled around the coliseum tasting delicious samples from the different chef stations and enjoyed music and dancing.

"It was one of the most successful community events we have hosted in recent years, with the goal of raising funds for student scholarships and academic programs."

Burleson explained the process of planning the event, which relies on help from other organizations.

"This event is so big it takes a lot of different departments, organizations and services on campus to pull it all together," she said. "We have mail-outs, radio shows, signage that needs to be designed and printed ... and so much more."

Some of these organizations include the Hospitality, Management and Tourism



Photo by Sean McGraw

NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio with First Lady Jennifer Maggio at Flavor of Louisiana

students, the Louisiana Seafood Board that supplies all of the seafood at the event, and the chefs or vendors themselves.

Hunter Horton, volunteer event coordinator, is one of many volunteers helping with the event.

"We've been planning this for about two months," he said.

Horton explained that time plans were created to account for every second of the day leading up to the event.

Burleson credited the HMT students for playing "a large role in Flavor of Louisiana" because of their help with logistics and helping the event go on as planned.

"Two of our main challenges are space and electricity," she said.

The space issue comes into

play because space is limited between the 30 chefs and bars, live music and hundreds of guests.

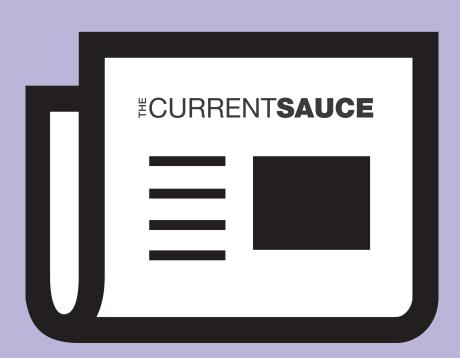
"Each chef needs to have access to an outlet in order to warm up their dishes that they are serving," Burleson said. "You can see where this would be a challenge, because Prather [Coliseum] is meant for athletics, not cooking events."

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser was one of many guests attending the event this year.

"This is a great way to show our support for the universities," he said. "[NSU] did a great job last year jumping out of the gate, and they have set the model for the rest of the state."

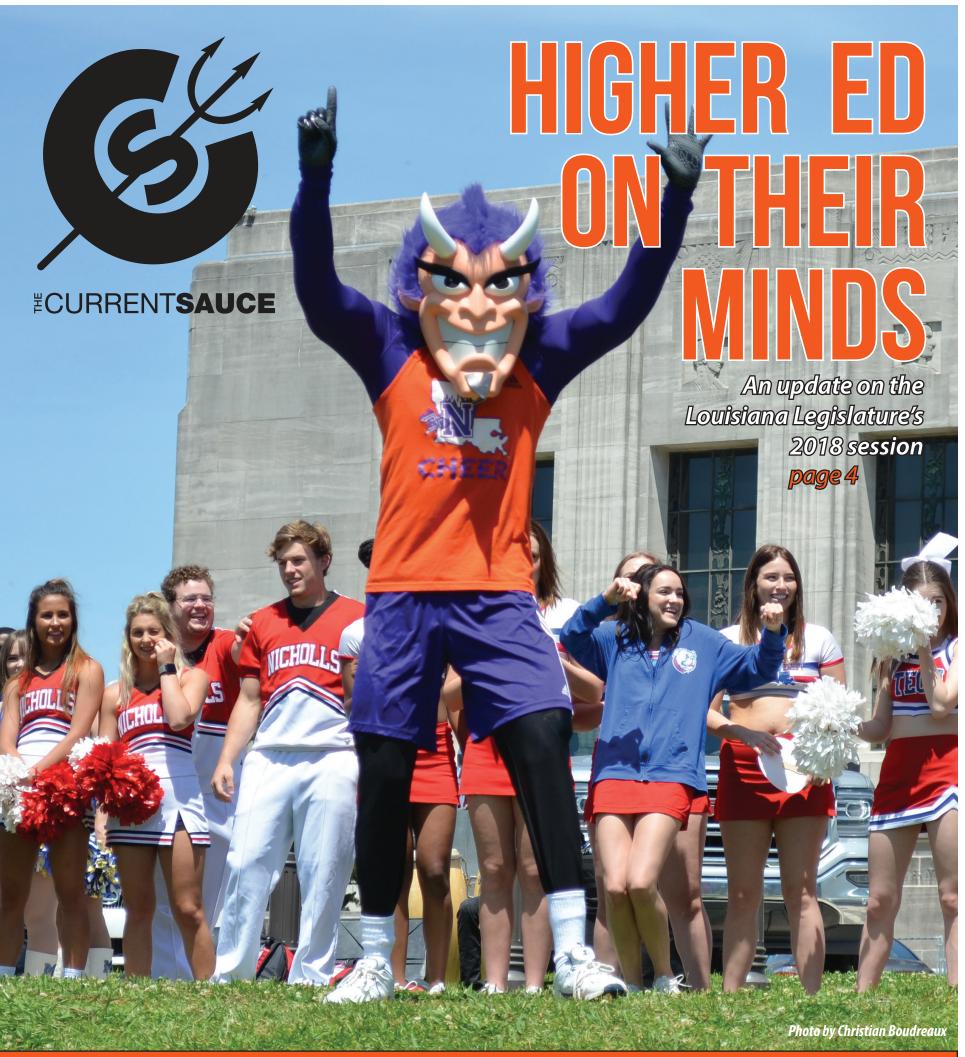
Read the full story at currentsauce.com





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The Eyes of Argus

Saturday Afternoon: Approaching the Sixty-Sixth Year

KATHLEEN SMITH

Argus 1985

When your hair is unpinned and floating like fine white mist on the lake in November, I see the young woman.
She is still there...
no matter how disguised.
She ebbs and flows with the moon.
But when your hair is unpinned and flying, you flirt... you tease... your eyes snap... your heart rises up and fills your mouth until laughter overflows and tumbles out making its way through the room... pausing to caress the air, to smooth the pages of a book.

When your hair is unpinned and free, there is no hiding the spirit.

The threads of life are entwined with the ivory strands... and when unwound, they release lover's knots of scarlet, disparate patches of mourning locks, glass beads of childhood games, smoke and haze of days remembered.

But... it's merely comfortable, you protest.

And so it is.
You should unpin your hair more often.



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DemonFest celebrates five years

ZOE ALMARAZ

Reporter

KNWD's fifth annual musical festival DemonFest provides students with a fun event near the end of the semester while doubling as a showcase for local artists.

Beginning as a oneday festival, the event has switched between one and two days from year to year. The usual lineup includes bands from surrounding areas as supporting acts and more well-known artists as headliners.

Last year's headliners, swmrs and 3OH!3, started a trend of having more mainstream artists as the main act. This year's headliners are Big Freedia and Asher Roth, and the festival will return to its outdoor location April 20 on the Iberville Green, weather permitting.

Genres represented in

DemonFest include pop, singer-songwriter, rock, rap and jazz.

Covering the singer-songwriter front is Downtown Wave who, until DemonFest, operated as an acoustic duo. They will expand and debut as a five-piece band at Friday's festival. This band is notable for its contributions towards charity and philanthropy.

"We always donate 100 percent of tips collected at any of our shows to local charities and homeless shelters, so what we also really want to promote is generosity and kindness towards your fellow man," the duo said via email. "Many of our songs have a socially conscious message to promote this philosophy and help people be aware of issues in our society."

Downtown Wave's single "Snake Bite" is available on major music streaming platforms.

Categorizing his sound as "electrifying soul-hop," AF the Naysayer is also slated to perform Friday.

AF the Naysayer has collaborated with numerous musicians across New Orleans, leading him to become an ambassador for Red Bull Music Academy, founding a beat making talent showcase, "Dolo Jazz Suite," and touring across the country.

Although this is a musical festival similar to others, supporting act St. Branham thinks there is more of a focus on the music and community booths than at other festivals.

"I feel like college venues have a lot more energy which makes it more fun," St. Branham said.

KNWD General Manager Noah Baudoin and Head of Live Music and Events Kasi Patten did not provide comment in time for publication.

Review: South Park's second video game

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Opinion Columnist

Over spring break, I got the chance to play the recent "South Park" game "The Fractured But Whole," the sequel to the 2014 game "The Stick of Truth" based off the television show. Going into the game, I wanted to see if it was an improvement over its predecessor, and I was gladly proven right.

The game's story takes place after the events of "The Stick of Truth" where the kids in "South Park," instead of playing wizards versus elves, playing superheroes. While off to start their own franchise, the crew of "Coon and Friends" separate to form the group "Freedom Pals"; each wants to start a franchise and make a lot of money doing so. You play as the "New Kid" again, and get to customize your own hero and take part in a story that unfolds on a bizarre and larger scale.

The story has a hilarious premise, and it only gets better from there. "South Park" has been known to push boundaries by making fun of current events and

pop culture. "Fractured But Whole" does that and has more references to modern "South Park," unlike "Stick of Truth" which referenced older seasons. This doesn't mean that just new fans will enjoy the game; old fans will easily find a great amount of humor to be had here.

However, if you were never a fan of the type of humor used in "South Park," this game won't convince you otherwise. There are jokes in the game that are very 'outrageous' to say the least, but that – ironically – in a way is praise for a "South Park" game.

Even then, RPG fans will still find a lot to like about "Fractured But Whole" in its gameplay.

While you are not fighting enemies like in other video games, you get to explore the town of "South Park." There are side quests with iconic characters from the show, secrets to find in the world like Yaoi fanart of Tweek and Craig and Member Berries, puzzles to solve with items to find, and the option to take selfies with each citizen of "South Park."

Selfies are a gameplay mechanic; as you gain new followers, you become more respected in town, and your franchise gains a bigger following. Exploring the town you also might encounter sixth graders, Raisins Girls – a parody of Hooters Girls, ninjas, crab people and hillbillies you can battle with.

This is where the major improvements over "Stick of Truth" come into play.

Instead of adopting a JRPG Turn Based System akin to "Paper Mario," "Fractured But Whole" adopts a tactics style system for enemy encounters. This means positioning, movement and knowing your party matters in "But Whole."

The characters are placed on a grid where each turn they can move and select four abilities that can either attack, heal party members, grant beneficial effects or inflict status effects. It brings back the timed button presses from "Stick of Truth" that can make the attacks or benefits even stronger by hitting the buttons at the right time.

Read the full review at currentsauce.com

APRIL 18, 2018 ARTS & LIVING 3



Sophomore Cambree Bailey designs Little Red Riding Hood's patchwork cape for "Into the Woods."

hoto by Jasmine Johnson

Venturing 'Into the Woods': a backstage pass to the making of the show

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Reporter

A udiences who view theater productions at Northwestern State University regularly get the chance to appreciate the arts in a performance setting. While each show differs, it's clear a lot of time, resources and passion go toward what is presented on stage.

For this year's production of "Into the Woods," the process from concept to stage has been unknown to the general public, and the effort shouldn't go unnoticed.

"Into the Woods" is a Tony Award-winning musical based off a combination of fairy tales with music and lyrics by wellknown composer Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine.

The show stars a colorful cast with an irresolute Cinderella, a vicious Little Red Ridinghood, a flirtatious Prince Charming and a witch who raps. It

shows the characters trying to find happiness and the struggles they encounter along the way. While the first act is lighthearted, the second is not for the timid.

NSU's Department of Theatre and Dance dedicates many resources and countless hours to each production; this includes stage and prop building, costume design and lighting effects in addition to the on-stage cast.

Pia Wyatt is the director and choreographer, and musical direction is provided by Dr. Corey Trahan. Robert Richoux, Paul Pharris and Mary Rogers designed the set, lighting and costumes, respectively.

Beyond faculty and staff, some students take the lead and apply skills to the show more than what people would expect

Assistant Costume Designer Elizabeth Gui explained the process of creating the mask and claws of the wolf. She created both a rehearsal and show mask.

For the show mask, the actor laid down on a table and was covered in plastic and then plaster bandages. This all must be done with the actor keeping still. Then, Gui covered each hole and crevice in glue and began detailing with paper clay. She had to mold the eyes, ears, snout and the face all by hand.

This was a difficult task, as during the process the ears started to look like those of a cat, the snout appeared piglike, and the face shape caused some problems.

"I have never had to look at so many pictures of wolves for references in my entire life," Gui exclaims.

The final touches came when she painted the mask with white, black and brown and added a "fur-like" stroke for extra effect.

When it comes to the performers, the actors have rehearsed four hours, six

days a week since the second week of classes this semester. Events such as spring break, trips to New York and the Southeastern Theatre Conference have left some rehearsals without the full cast.

Even so, the actors must prioritize health at all times. Musical Director Dr. Corey Trahan helps the cast maintain vocal health and balance their demanding schedules.

"If I notice someone is struggling, I often pull them aside and we talk about ways they can manage their time better," Trahan says. "If they are getting sick or run down, it's crucial to address it immediately so they do not become bedridden and worse, infect the rest of the cast."

Both Trahan and Wyatt have wanted to do the show for years, since it's filled with many memorable characters. When faculty agreed on this production, they were excited to "put on a fairy tale." "I enjoy doing theater that has a message or overriding thought," Wyatt says. "We need to be okay with the fact that there are bumps, witches and giants in order to gain the tools to get through that. That's why we are presented with forests to cross."

Trahan's favorite song in the Sondheim musical is "No More," sung by the Baker and the Mysterious Man, because of its parallels to reality.

"The melody is beautiful, but the lyrics have a personal meaning for me," he says. "The character is at the end of his rope and has to make a decision of what's next."

"Into the Woods" will raise its curtains April 20-22 and April 25-27 in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. each day, except for April 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children and seniors. NSU, BPCC and LSMSA students are admitted free with a valid student ID.

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State legislature seeks to update raffle, free speech, harassment policies

JORDAN REICHAssociate Editor

The Louisiana State Legislature began its regular session March 12. Aside from the Max Gruver Act and uncertainty of higher education and Taylor Opportunity Program for Students funding, three bills introduced to the floor in April could affect college students should they pass in both the House and Senate.

Senate Bill 364 by Sen. Rick Ward, III, R-Port Allen, passed 33-0; House Bill 261 by Rep. Joseph Marino, III, I-Gretna, passed 99-0; and Senate Bill 559 by Sen. Dan W. Morrish, R-Jennings, passed 21-13.

SB 364 protects the right of students, faculty and others expressing free speech on campuses "as long as the person's conduct is not unlawful and does not ... disrupt the functioning of the institution."

It states that the prime function of universities and colleges is ultimately the pursuit of knowledge, and "in order to fulfill the function, each institution must strive to ensure the fullest degree of intellectual freedom and free expression."

The bill, now under House revision, obligates Louisiana universities to create policies that are consistent with SB 364 and make those policies accessible in handbooks and online. It also requires public institutions to submit a report to the legislature on the application of the policies starting Jan. 1, 2019.

Demons Supports Demons President Ashlyn Guidry said she thinks the bill could be helpful for universities but specifically for organizations that exercise their right to demonstrate multiple times throughout the year.

"I view it both ways ... I wish that universities could

make their own policies [and] that they wouldn't need law to enforce certain policies," Guidry said. "[But] I think it's good that everyone would be held to the same level."

Northwestern State University changed its own Policy on Public Speech, Assembly and Demonstration in 2016 after facing backlash from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

FIRE changed NSU's Speech Code Rating – an assessment of "the degree to which free speech is curtailed" – from red to yellow following the policy change. There are currently no green-rated universities in Louisiana.

"We've never had too many problems because we've worked within the policies we do have," Guidry said.

HB 261 prohibits calls, text messages or other communications using "obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or lascivious language" to threaten or harass another person. This revises language used in the previous law to include text messages as a form of harassment.

"It's a good step in the right direction," Guidry said. "I think these laws are so behind, though."

Guidry brought up that calls and texts are no longer the only way people can harass others, and social media can be used in the same way.

While HB 261 includes "any telecommunications device" or "any other similar device that is designed to engage in a call or communicate text or data," it is unclear whether social media interactions fall under the scope of the bill.

SB 559 additionally passed through the Senate and will be considered by the House of Representatives. If it becomes law, universities and colleges would be allowed to conduct

raffles without having to obtain a special license and "without having to qualify with the IRS for a federal income tax exemption."

In an article circulated in the University of Louisiana System newsletter, Sen. Gerald Long, R-Winnfield, objected to the bill based on his view that institutions already hold raffles, to which Morrish responded that those raffles have been unauthorized and possibly illegal.















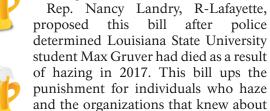


Louisiana House passes bil

SAMANTHA CLARK
Contributing Writer



After unanimously passing in the Louisiana House of Representatives, House Bill 78 moved to the Senate floor. Also known as the "Max Gruver Act," the bill defines hazing and aims to increase its penalties at colleges and universities in Louisiana.



For individuals, the new bill would raise penalties to a maximum fine of \$1,000, an imprisonment period of up to six months, or both. If hazing results in serious injury or death of an individual or forces alcohol consumption that raises the victim's blood alcohol content to at least 0.25 percent, individuals involved can be fined up to \$10,000 and imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for five years.

hazing instances but failed to report.

For the organization, if any serving as a representative or off of an organization knew about has in his or her organization and faile report it, the organization may be fully to \$10,000.

The organization could also lose public funds received and "all rigand privileges of being an organiza"... for a specific period of time determined by the court." This per will be no less than four years if acts results in serious injury or death the victim having a BAC of at least of percent.

The definition of hazing per this is "any intentional, knowing, or reck act by a person acting alone or ac with others that is directed aga another when both of the follow apply: The person knew or sho have known that the act endangers physical health or safety of the or person or causes severe emotion distress. The act was associated to pledging, being initiated into, affilial with, participating in, holding of in, or maintaining membership in organization."





GHERED ON THEIR MINDS

I to increase hazing penalties 4

When this bill was proposed, Northwestern State University Director of Greek Life Shayne Creppel was asked by the UL System to review it and offer his thoughts.

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"I strongly support the efforts to increase the penalties from the state for hazing of this type," he said. "We have lost too many students to these horrible practices that we see far too often in our organizations."

Creppel pointed to instances of students being killed in instances of forced alcohol consumption and physical violence as the reason for his support.

"We are talking about more than just causing physical or mental harm," he said. "I think the state has a duty to do what it can to help not only keep these students safe but to penalize those responsible for causing harm, injury, or death."

As for how this will affect NSU, Creppel doubts there will be a significant change. His main responsibility is to ensure the health and safety of students, and these efforts will remain the same.

Interfraternity Council President

Chris Sanders wants to push toward more education if this bill becomes law in addition to preventative action currently taken by IFC. He plans to hold weekly meetings with new member presidents next semester.

"That will be a time to relay this as well to make sure they know that we will not tolerate any hazing," Sanders said.

A student body survey showed that around 60 percent of respondents don't think this bill will fix the issue in Louisiana.

Nevertheless, College Panhellenic Council President Taylor Rose hopes the Max Gruver Act and deaths of students nationwide inspire positive change, leading to significant drops in hazing-related injuries and deaths.

"Once other states and universities see this, they will hop on board, and we can all go back to our values that our student organizations were founded on," Rose said. "No one else should become part of the hazing statistics."

Progress on House Bill 78 can be tracked at www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?i=233174.

1,200 students rally at UL System Day in Capitol

SAMANTHA MAIETTE

Managing Editor

Invest in the future of Louisiana through higher education: Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards delivered this message to a group of college students who rallied in support of higher education.

The battle for higher education has been ongoing for several years as lawmakers try to balance Louisiana's budget deficit.

Recently, Louisiana has reduced its projected deficit by \$346 million, stemming from an increase in state income tax.

Roughly 1,200 students from across the state attended the University of Louisiana System Day at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge last Wednesday to advocate for higher education funding. Continued threats to state funding and to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students prompted the UL System to encourage its nine universities to rally at the capitol.

Since 2008, tuition and fees have nearly doubled while state funding has been slashed by approximately 44 percent, according to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Proposed changes to TOPS that have gained traction in the Legislature include house bills 413, 414 and 161.

House Bill 413, sponsored by Rep. Barry Ivey, R-Baton Rouge, proposes increases to GPA requirements and the establishment of a TOPS Transfer award that would require recipients to attend community or technical college before transferring to a four-year school. This bill narrowly advanced to the House floor.

House Bill 414, also sponsored by Ivey, proposes raising GPA requirements based on the number of credit hours students have accrued: 2.5 after 24 credits, and 2.75 after 48 credits. This would affect first-time freshmen as soon as next semester if passed and advanced to the House floor with an 8-5 vote.

House Bill 161, by Rep. Ray Garofalo, R-Chalmette, would require recipients to sign a promissory note that would acknowledge they would repay their TOPS award should they drop out of school or fail to maintain eligibility. Garofalo is frustrated with students who go to bars at night while tax dollars fund their education.

"I don't want the students to look at this gift from taxpayers in the mouth," the representative said in an interview with the Times-Picayune.

Garofalo's bill advanced to the House floor with an 8-5 vote.

More than half of students eligible for TOPS awards are enrolled in the UL System.

NSU had the largest representation at the event with almost 400 students attending, making NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio proud of students' dedication.

"This is a great way for the students from across Louisiana to get together and advocate for higher education," he said. "I'm so proud of Northwestern."

Edwards, UL System President Dr. Henderson and legislators representing different districts attended.

Henderson described UL System Day as a "showcase of the future of Louisiana."

"These students are future doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, artists, performers, journalists," he said. "It's important that the decision-makers in the capitol see that their appropriation of higher education is an investment in [the student's future] and our future."

NSU Student Government Association President Tre Nelson noticed a change in this year's UL System Day from previous years.

"In the past, it has been more of a rally that's been directed at the legislative body to rile them up and acknowledge us," he said. "However, now we're out here celebrating everything we are as a UL System."

Though the rally has ended, Henderson encourages students to continue their involvement in advocating for higher education funding.

"It's important that we follow up and that students continue to engage with these lawmakers and other decision-makers so that we can be sure that we're investing in our future," Henderson said.

Alec Horton contributed to this

















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Track and Field pull national ranks as they prepare for Southland, NCAA Championships

BRIAN JORDAN
Contributing Writer

The Northwestern State Track and Field team has followed Head Coach Mike Heimerman's "show up and show out" motto for the 2018 season. At Texas Relays, one of the biggest outdoor meets of the season held in Austin, Texas, the NSU team did just that as they posted some of the top numbers and brought the team's overall ranking to seventh in the nation.

Junior sprinter Micah Larkins posted the fastest collegiate time of the nation this year as he ran a 10.02 in the men's 100-meter dash.

"I feel honored and blessed," Larkins said. "I feel like a lot of hard work is starting to pay off. It's really crazy. Coming from a small school ... to be ranked as one of the best in collegiate sprints is really a blessing."

In the invitational women's 100-meter hurdles, Daeshon Gordon finished third and earned the 12th spot nationally.

Lady Demon senior sprinter De'Shalyn Jones clocked a wind-aided 23.22 seconds for third in the 200-meter invitational, the 11th best-time in the country this season.

Larkins, Amir Tames, Kie'Ave Harry and Michael McGruder joined to run 39.45 seconds in the 4x100relay, taking third behind the University of Houston (38.915) and LSU (38.919), and ahead of Georgia (39.50), Baylor (39.57),A&M (39.65) and Texas (40.83). The times by UH and LSU are first and second in the world this year. NSU's finish was second fastest in Southland Conference history and third best in Demon history in the event.

With the season ending soon, the next few meets will be used as practice as the team prepares for the last big meet of the season, the LSU Alumni Gold on April 21 and the upcoming Southland Conference Championships, Regionals and the coveted NCAA Championships.

On April 7 at the Carl Knight Invitational in Nacogdoches, Texas, most of the team's best sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers were given an opportunity to rest. However, NSU still was able to astound with the athletes that performed.

Senior sprinter De'Shalyn Jones swept the women's 100- and 200-meter dashes, and senior Marquise Foster came close to tying his school record in the men's hammer throw, throwing 187-6 for second place.

"It's a confidence booster, because it just shows I have more in the tank," Foster said. "It's really exciting to see all the hard work I put into it pay off."

The athletes have already focused in on the looming championships later this month.

"The coaches always stress there's only three meets that count: conference, regionals and nationals," Larkins said. "Those are the goal. I feel confident going into it. The competition gets tough, and it only gets tougher after conference. I'm going to go in with a strong mind, and be ready to run."

"It's always a different mindset going into meets like conference and regionals," sophomore Collin Milton said. "You know you have to do your best, and if you don't, that's it."

Baseball looks to continue win streak in remaining weeks

HOLLY JENKINS

Reporter

The NSU Demon Baseball team has continued to have a successful season over the last few weeks, with an overall winning record.

"We've been very steady this season," Head Coach Bobby Barbier said. "That's exactly what we want; we want to have a consistent team."

In their series against Stephen F. Austin University April 6-8, the Demons won two out of three games — a feat that came after having to postpone several times due to inclement weather.

"Unfortunately, you can't simulate a lot of things like that in practice—things like losing a game or changes in weather," Barbier said. "We can only learn through experience but I'm pleased with how the team has managed to continue to do well even when faced with unexpected challenges."

The Demons celebrated another victory April 10 as they won against Lamar University with a final score of 15-3. According to NSU Demon Athletics, this game brought the Demons to a season-high of 16 hits with infielder Luke Watson becoming the first Demon to score four runs in a game this season.



Photo by Sean McGraw

Ridge Heisler, junior, pitches the ball in the Demons' April 14 game against Southeastern Louisiana University.

Senior right-handed pitcher Dan Hlad is another player who has been particularly successful this year.

"My first year, I was a little naïve," Hlad said. "I knew I had to work and keep developing. I just want to go out there, throw well and give our team the best chance to win."

The team saw yet another game postponed due to weather in its series

opener against Southeastern University on April 13. Originally scheduled to begin Friday, the opening game was moved to Saturday where the Demons competed in a double-header.

The Demons take on University of Arkansas Little Rock next at Brown-Stroud Field April 18 at 6 p.m. A full schedule can be found online at nsudemons.com

APRIL 18, 2018 OPINION 7



Why your views may not be your own

BENJAMIN SOILEAU

Opinion Columnist

Social media is inarguably the most powerful influencer for teens and young adults today.

I use three social media platforms: Twitter, Snapchat and Reddit. When I am scrolling through any of my social media accounts, I often see people getting a lot of attention and support for their political and social views

Sometimes the points they make are good, but they are often only showing one side of the argument.

For example, the current President of the United States Donald Trump is a controversial figure and is the subject of a lot of hate on social media because of it.

It is not uncommon for me to scroll through Twitter and see a tweet saying something like, "Donald Trump has done nothing for the economy," and people will see that it has a few thousand retweets and even more likes and will look no further and believe it because so many other people have shown their accordance. Whether or not you believe that Trump has or has not helped the economy is irrelevant; what we need to recognize is that people are actually forming their opinions based off of tweets that provide no evidence.

The issue goes further than just influential people

posting their opinions on social media.

In a Business Insider article by Natasha Bertrand, the topic of cyberwar comes

Adrian Chen, a writer at The New Yorker revealed that the Russian government hires Internet trolls to spread propaganda that pushes the Russian agenda onto western social media platforms. The article was written in the middle of the 2016 presidential race, and Russia was hiring pro-Trump bots to spread misinformation in an attempt to get Trump elected.

The reason Russia does this is because it works. It takes no genius to observe how lazy people can be when it comes to keeping up with current events.

We are now so into instant gratification that we do not read further into things. It is easier to adopt the seemingly good views of others than it is to formulate your own. Governments and big businesses know the way we think and how much we use social media, and they are using this to their benefit. People are trying to exploit us using social media. It is obvious that the general masses are easily exploited, so people with the power to use that to their advantage

The most common complaint I see on social media is how society is going to crap, but no one really digs into why. It is because

we allow ourselves to be enslaved by social media, and we are weaker because of it.

We do not have our own values anymore; we have the values of whichever powerful figure has exploited us, and that just makes you think the future is grim.

My intentions in writing this are to force anyone reading this to examine themselves.

Think about how informed you are and how deep you look into the issues we face today. It is important to be informed because our society is our responsibility. If we can make informed decisions now, our future selves will thank us for forming a society we feel safe to raise our children in.

BREAKING NEWS: Nobody cares — unless you're famous

KIRSTEN SONNIER

Opinion Columnist

It seems the only things we see on the news today are either bad news reports or celebrity news reports.

In a study for the Pew Research Center, Russell Heimlich said the following: "The belief that the news media pays too much attention to celebrity news ... is widely shared."

All too often we see A-list celebrities making the headlines alongside national tragedies. With both of these kinds of stories steadily increasing, there tends to be a mass divide in what people think we should be focusing on. In today's society, people are distracted

from real-world events because they are paying more attention to which celebrity did what that day.

Now, I don't mean to sound like a conspiracy theorist, but it seems as if every time something significant happens in the news, it is swept aside because of something some famous person has done that day.

For example, the day the Manhattan terrorist attack in 2017 happened, the number one trending topic that day was not the attack. The top Twitter moment that day was not about the attack but rather about Wendy Williams fainting on live television. As soon as people had heard that she had fainted, they

searched for the footage and the terrorist attack in Manhattan became a passing thought of "thoughts and prayers."

You could just pass this off as a coincidence, but this sort of thing has been happening for years.

On January 23, 2014,
Justin Bieber was arrested for
Driving Under the Influence
and drag racing charges.
Do you know what else was
happening in the world at
the same time as Bieber's
arrest? Protests in Kiev,
Ukraine – "a prelude to a
major geopolitical standoff
between the United States
and Russia" – turned violent,
peace talks in Switzerland
regarding Syria began, the
Palestinian city of Ramallah

was put under siege by Israeli troops, and a car bomb detonated within Cairo's government, killing four and injuring 50.

Society today is treading very dangerous territory. If all people care about is celebrities and not current world events, the state of the world will only continue to worsen over time. We, as a country, will have failed to be successful as one of the top countries if we cannot care enough to fix our conflicts.

Most people were probably vaguely aware of what was happening, but were more concerned about getting the scoop on Bieber or Williams.

I, for one, have never really been taught about foreign affairs such as these, but I have definitely heard about Justin's arrest, which just goes to show that celebrity news is a huge distraction from serious world news. Some may say that celebrities do not really have that much of an effect on people's lives, but these few examples are part of a group of many that have distracted people from what was important.

You have to admit that with people like the Kardashians and Jenners – that people are obsessed with for no reason – the public is so engrossed in what is going on in their lives that they just brush off anything that actually matters in the world. The outlook for our future does not look too great if this is what people care about.

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Police Blotter

March 27

Foot Pursuit

1304 hours University Place II Arrests made

Hit and Run

1339 hours Student Union Parking Citations issued

Hit and Run

2157 hours WRAC Parking

March 31

Property Damage 2220 hours

Magnet School Building

April 4

Drug Law Violation

1604 hours
Tarlton Drive
Arrest made

April 5

Attempted Vehicle Burglary 1845 hours

Sorority Row

April 7

Burglary 1525 hours University Columns

April 8

Simple Battery 2115 hours University Columns

April 9

Flight from Officer 2119 hours Tarlton Drive

Arrest made

April 13

Theft

1304 hours CAPA Building

Hit and Run

1416 hours Parking Lot 30

April 14

Burglary 1644 hours University Columns

Yearbooks to be available in coming weeks

ALEC HORTON Editor-in-Chief

The 108th volume of Potpourri, NSU's official yearbook, will be available to students near the end of April. Each student can claim a copy of the book at no additional

charge; the cost is included in

student fees.

Potpourri Editor-in-Chief Kierstin Richter says the new book doesn't have a theme, like some in years past, but rather more of a cohesive retro design.

"It makes me think of rollerskating and going to a 70s disco," Richter says of the design.

Armed with the power to choose the articles she wrote, Richter says she was sarcastic and satirical at times and generally poked fun at college.

"I wanted to put something at the beginning of the book like, 'If you're too hungover to remember your college years, then here's a yearbook for you to remember it,'" she laughs. "Then I figured the department probably wouldn't like that."

The psychology major admits the long-term process of creating a yearbook is strenuous, because it's difficult to keep motivation high when the finish line seems so distant. Richter had not helped create her high school yearbook, so overseeing the process in its entirety was a new experience.

Participating in the highest capacity, she says, taught her valuable skills leading a staff and occasionally discovering some personalities "just don't mesh."

"I've learned how to keep the peace between people, which will be good because I want to go into counseling," she says. "I've really enjoyed being a part of a team and ... creating something bigger than myself."

Richter tried something different from editors in previous years: she assigned most stories at the beginning of the fall semester, only leaving unassigned the things that had to be done in the spring.

"I think that was a little bit overwhelming for some of the staff," Richter says. "Some of them thought it was a whole lot, then others though it wasn't enough."

Potpourri took matters into its own hands sometimes, Richter says, when organizations ignored their messages and grabbed photos from social media.

"They may look at [the book] and be like, 'What the heck?," she says. "I'm waiting to see the reaction on that."

SGA Minutes: ULS Day response, Concert Committee discussion

JORDAN REICH
Associate Editor

President Tre Nelson commended Northwestern State for the amount of students who attended the University of Louisiana System day at the capitol. He also thanked SGA senators for their efforts promoting the event and for representing the student body.

Nelson said he noticed at ULS Day, Vic the Demon was not in full uniform like the other university mascots and was instead seen in a jersey and shorts.

"I don't think I've personally seen Vic in full uniform since my freshman year," the senior SGA president said.

He urged senators to create legislation detailing the guidelines for Vic's appearance at certain events.

SGA also discussed an overview of the Student Activities Board and the Concert Committee at length. The Concert Committee is responsible for booking artists for events such as Homecoming and DemonFest.

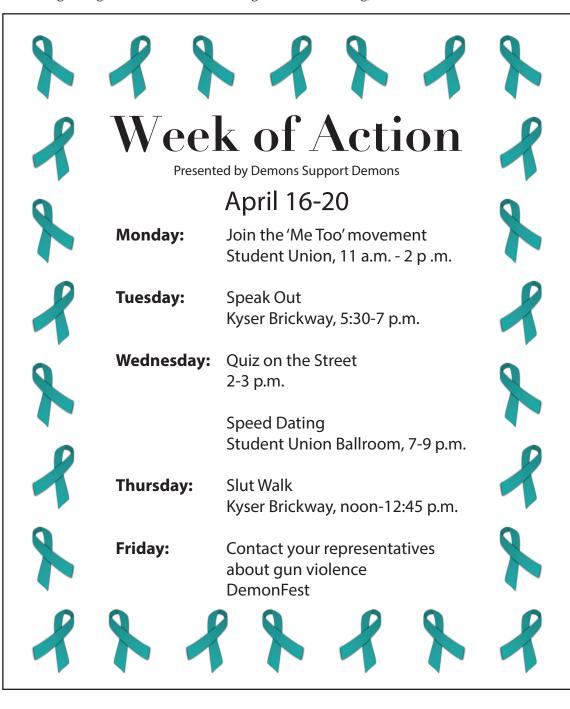
"We need to have tabs on what SAB is doing," Nelson said.

Nelson said while SGA has a representative attend these committee meetings, there is not a member of SAB who attends SGA meetings to provide updates like there was in past years. He also contemplated the creation of a vice-chair position who will report back to SGA.

Treasurer Aly Jacobs agreed with Nelson and also urged senators to create legislation. She also spoke about the process to book an artist and the paperwork behind it in response to senators questioning artist choices in the past.

"We need to create regulations ... so they understand they can spend [money]," Jacobs said.

It was reiterated that Concert Committee meetings are open to all students, and it is important to voice opinions to representatives who serve on the committee.





Police Blotter

April 18

Complaint of Cardi B

0212 hours University Columns Student asked to stop "eeeoowwwing"

April 19

Vehicle theft

1835 hours Chaplin's Lake Thief was a squirrel and drove car into lake; car didn't sink due to silt buildup

Suspicious person

2153 hours
Varnado Hall
Was actually mold monster
(think Oogie Boogie from "The
Nightmare Before Christmas");
defeated with Super Soaker
shooting Pine-Sol

April 20

Noise complaint

0814 hours Caspari Hall Floors are just so damn squeaky

Drug law violations

2040 hours DemonFest Duh.

April 21

No criminal activity

Students in bed all day hungover

April 22

Animal sacrifice

2226 hours Greek Row Initiation ritual; members asked to sweep carcass under rug where other secrets hide

April 23

Hit and run

0305 hours University Parkway Pedestrian dreamed Chick-Fil-A opened and was sleepwalking to Neebo

Complaint of feces

omplaint of feces
1002 hours
A.A. Fredericks
Musical director has had
enough of her students' s---;
left hot, stinking pile on stage

This is NSU.



This is NSU with Big Freedia.



SATIRE REMOULADE 3



SGA Minutes: Questionable choices at every step

JORDAN REICH Associate Editor

President Tre Nelson began the meeting by taking a microphone from his coat pocket, dropping it and walking out, throwing a deuces sign as he played "Bad and Boujee" by Migos.

President Elect Jacob Ellis took over and congratulated the new 2018-2019 senators for winning the annual NSU popularity contest.

Ellis also announced that the speaker for the spring commencement ceremonies will be University of Louisiana System Dr. Jim Henderson, despite the large sum in the SGA speakers fund.

Advisor Shayne Creppel did not show up at the beginning of the meeting but ran in when he felt his spidey senses tingling because senators were not in proper meeting attire.

Concerned students brought up Neebo's closure and the Chickfil-A construction, asking how students will safely cross University Parkway with the busy street.

"We're planning on commissioning a bouncy castle overhead walkway," Ellis said. "We'll have to make sure it's bird-proof and high enough for semis to pass under."

Self-taught online students now considered faculty members

BRIAN JORDAN *Contributing Writer*

In response to some of the protests around the nation due to teachers' salaries, Northwestern State decided to act first before any sort of protests happened on campus and decided it was time to finally pay students who take online classes.

In this groundbreaking move, NSU announced they will pay online students \$20 per week. Students will still have to pay for tuition, but now they're only asked to dip their toes into the crippling debt that comes with student loans rather than fully dive into it.

Many students have

rejoiced about the decision.

"This is great," sophomore Vance McDonald said. "That's like, what, \$50,000 a year? I took my math class online last semester, and this would've been great. It's not feasible to ask students to teach themselves everything for a class and pay for the class."

The decision was made to help students pay for textbooks and any other type of materials they would also need.

"I honestly didn't even know I needed a book for online classes," freshman Samuel Sinclair said. "I just kind of looked up everything online. With this new program though, I'm sure I'll buy it if I have enough money left over. My main priority is to buy some 'Game of Thrones' DVDs."

Not all students are as ecstatic with the move. Some students prefer a regular class setting as opposed to online classes. Others claim the students taking online classes are receiving special treatment, or that the pay has come a little too late.

"I mean, this would've been nice to know sooner," sophomore Craig Ferguson said. "I just made a long-term investment by selling my kidney to help pay off some of my tuition. If I would've known this was coming, I might have just sold my gall bladder."

"I took one of those online classes once and hated it," freshman McKenzie Graham said. "I spent all semester looking for it. I asked around and people said it was 'in Moodle' but could never find the building. I won't be taking another one again and will be missing out on this."

NSU has said they will revert money from other sources to pay online students as well. Some include previous free services now having costs. Toilet paper will now cost \$5 to access, and seats in classrooms will now have "seat fees" and attached toll meters that must be refilled every 30 minutes.

Alum funds another Demon Football purchase while CAPA rots

ALEC HORTON *Editor-in-Chief*

On the heels of approximately \$1.5 million spent on Turpin Stadium comes another six-figure check to NSU Football with the following memo: "not for Creative and Performing Arts."

Sports Press said the donor wished to remain anonymous, but that he or she had been in a CAPA building once and "could feel the herpes in the air."

"The herpes was part of it," a spokesperson said. "But it seemed the donor was mostly salty that the band got much more attention at games from fans than the football team."

Asked about the great financial support for football in particular, Sports Press was unsure how to make sense of this considering the team's embarrassing record.

"We don't understand it either," the spokesperson said. "In this particular case, we think the donor was just



FILE - This file photo shows CAPA in 2003. Today, the building more closely resembles a portable toilet after a high-traffic weekend at Coachella.

petty."

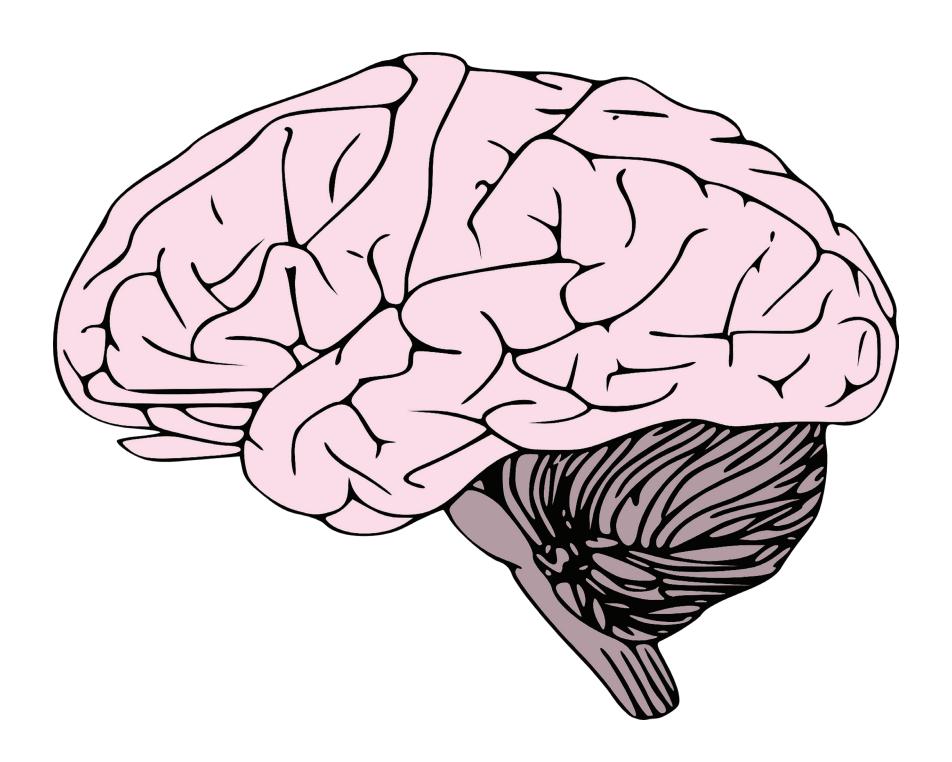
The spokesperson added that they are happy to spend someone else's money wastefully "for recruitment purposes," using air quotes caustically.

This \$450,000 will purchase

a fleet of mopeds to be used by the team during games, since winning on foot often proves too difficult. Meanwhile, CAPA will continue rotting into the ground.

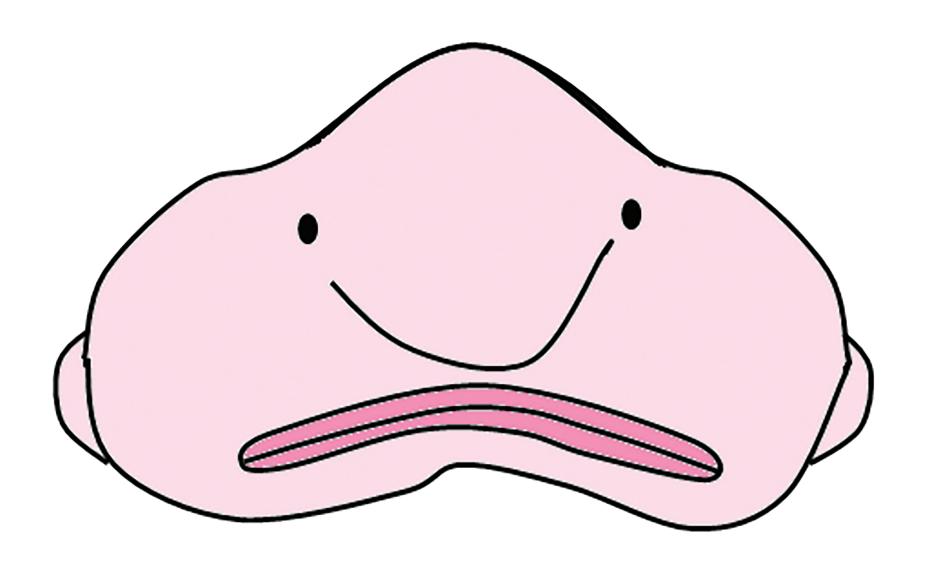
"I think the CAPA plebs have grown to like their flimsy white plastic benches and stiff airport seating," an athletic fundraising coordinator said. "Not that it matters, since they all prefer to stand in groups blocking the whole damn hallway anyway."

This



is your brain.

This



is your brain after attending NSU.

6 TARTAR SATIRE



#CURRENTSAUCE

Northwestern State University's student newspaper since 1914

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Dear FBI Agent,

I think there's something we need to talk about, and it's vitally important.

Although my Google search history may suggest otherwise, I'm just a wayward writer trying to make her way in the world. My stories are those of pain and anguish and heartbreak – all the things we face in life that are too hard to deal with. Sometimes characters need to be taken down a peg through torture or violence.

At first, I was scared to search some of the things that I needed to. Would I be put on a list if I googled, "How much blood comes out of a stab wound to the stomach?" Surely I would be arrested if anyone saw I looked up which place was the best for a nonfatal gunshot wound.

Now, I know what you're thinking: "This is what a murderer would say if he or she didn't want to be found out. Also, how did you know I'm reading all of your computer files all the time?"

Arguably, this is the weirdest experience I've ever had. I never thought I would be sending a letter to my personalized FBI agent, except in my head when I imagined contacting Agent Mulder from the "X-Files." (Research I've done shows the "X-Files" are real, so I will be trying to find the aliens.)

Sorry to make this letter so weird; as I said, I haven't exactly done this before.

On that note, I guess I better wrap this up. I mostly just wanted to assure you that I am not a murderer, and my Google search history means nothing. Nothing I search should be used against me! Is it weird to include that line? I guess it doesn't matter since you're probably reading this as I type it. Oh well.

So, yeah, I guess that's it. I guess I'll leave you to monitor me now...

Thanks for your time,

Your friendly neighborhood (and not a murderer) writer

ZOE ALMARAZ

P.S. Is it weird I kinda want to meet you one day? I'm curious to see the government agent assigned to keep tabs on me, a rambling girl with too many wild ideas. Should we get coffee and donuts? Wait, that's a cop stereotype. What do FBI agents eat? Nevermind, I'll Google it.

Sodexo now offering dog food diet

EMMA BURLET

Reporter

There are many different fad diet options out there, such as the werewolf diet, the liquid diet or the three-day tuna diet. Sodexo is now offering a new fad diet to help keep off the "freshman 15" called "Nibble on Kibble."

This diet is relatively easy; one only needs to keep some kibble in a zip lock bag and eat it throughout the day when hungry. If you want to diversify your diet, a can of wet dog food is roughly \$2 and 400 calories.

Anne Kadet, an author from the website OZY, decided to eat dog food for six days and finished with amazing results. She tried this diet because it was simple and it was a lot cheaper than other fad diets, such as the paleo or keto diets.

"The canned food is so delicious; I don't feel deprived. My digestion is fine, and my energy level is through the roof," Kadet said with eyes twitching.

Nicole Miller, a freshman at NSU, is excited about Sodexo's new diet option for students. She has a pitbull named Sophie at home and knows she absolutely loves her food, so Miller figured it would



Customers can "nibble on kibble" out of a dog bowl for added effect.

be fine to try it herself.

"I've been looking for a new diet option out there," she said. "The best part about this new diet is that it already tastes like the cafeteria food at NSU, so there's not much of a change."

With this new diet, Sodexo doesn't need to worry about seasoning their food – an extra cost they already don't worry about. Plus, dog food is an easy and accessible food source.

Some side effects of eating dog food

include E. coli, loss of focus, lack of nutrition, kidney failure, liver failure, heart failure, seizures, stroke, rashes, hives, cough, lung failure, loss of proper motor functions and even death.

But don't let that scare you off! Overall, this is a fun new way to diet for half the cost of a doctor-recommended diet. Some may think it is strange, but it's a good way to reach a new level of bonding with your dog and save some money. SATIRE ALFREDO 7

Art curator reviews graffiti in campus bathrooms

ANTHONY RENTERIA
Reporter

As an aspiring freelance artist in training, I decided to analyze the art on the bathroom walls in Kyser Hall, and I have come to the conclusion that the words and expressions of the students over the years have been unappreciated by the common viewer.

When I prepare my throne and sit down in the oval office, I get to see the art in full glory. Many of these decorative pieces reflect students' true feelings on the inside and act as a way for students to express themselves.

Looking to the right and left of the stall, many constructive arguments take place about the biology of different races, sexes and, even at rare occasions, cartoons – specifically Japanese ones.

These comments are interesting to read as they allow insight into the human psyche, reminding us that

humans are indeed mammals. But what makes us different from other creatures is that we dispose of our instincts in these secluded halls.

What always warms my heart is when people write phone numbers so I can call to "have a good time." It's great that these are here, because many people get very lonely and sometimes just need a friend to have a good time with.

Other people choose a different medium and draw

art. One of the most popular in the stalls is a comparison chart of the size of phallic symbols.

The biggest one was Harambe, the gorilla who people pretended to care about as a joke.

I can tell this was drawn in 2016, since that was one of the worst fads to come out of that year. I understand the artist's intention, but the subject became outdated and now does not have the impact it was originally going for.

Overall, the bathroom allows for the freedom of expression whether good or bad. While it gets updated year after year, it will have the charm when a joke is relevant, but just like a passing fad, the joke gets old very quick. If artists want to leave a lasting impression on the viewers, the art needs to be more creative.

The porcelain throne is yours to command, and the walls are where your creativity can thrive. Sincerely, do better.

Developers skip 'Kingdom Hearts 3' for wild crossover

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Reporter

As many await the newest entry in the "Kingdom Hearts" series that might be coming out this year, I decided to do some sneaking around in the Square Enix offices. Lo and behold, I found an advanced copy of the next entry in the series: "Kingdom Hearts 4."

Since development of "Kingdom Hearts 3" was taking so long, Square Enix decided to give the job to developers of the legendary game "Cory in the House" for Nintendo DS, which is

sitting at a 9.6 metacritic score. Square Enix kept this in secret to surprise waiting fans excited for the third installment.

This iteration of the series makes some drastic changes and goes in a new direction with the characters we all love. Sora, Donald and Goofy now have guns, and the storyline takes place in Middle Eastern Disney World. King Mickey is the captain of your squad, and it's a surprisingly violent third-person shooter with team squad mechanics; think "Halo" meets the "Mickey Mouse Club."

You command your squad

around the battlefield as you move from cover to cover shooting heartless nobodies. Goofy, as always, uses his shield and now has a new shotgun he can use to devastate enemies. Donald works as your medic, and just like any other "Kingdom Hearts" game, he will still never heal you when you are in danger.

Even with the shooter mechanics, the game still keeps the elements that "Kingdom Hearts" is known for, even when it has changed genres from a hack-and-slash to a shooter game. You still get to travel to other

Disney worlds and now have the option to visit allnew DreamWorks worlds where you get to team up with everyone's favorite action heroes: Will Smith Fish, Po, Barry Bee Benson, The Croods and, most importantly, Shrek.

Shrek is one of my favorite characters in the game. One of his signature moves is him busting out of his outhouse while "All Star" by Smash Mouth starts, inducing "a lotta damage" to enemies in the area.

Unfortunately, my problem with the game is that out of all the characters in these

worlds, the developers didn't include Knack from the "Knack" games! It's odd that he was missing from this entry when even Drake and Josh were included.

"Kingdom Hearts 4" was so great from what I played of it and was one of the best games I've played since "Superman 64." Instead of waiting for "Kingdom Hearts 3," look forward to "4," because it blew my mind so much that it's worth the wait when it comes out in the year 3000

Not much will change, but we'll probably be living underwater by then.

Students actually stay for second half of football game

ALEC HORTON

Editor-in-Chief

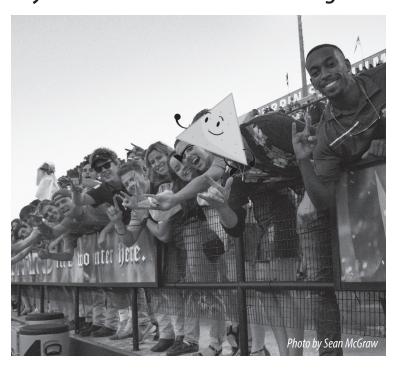
Saturday's football game saw students remaining after the band's halftime performance.

"I didn't actually care about the game," one student said. "We all knew they were going to get demolished in the second half, but I wanted to see if the team would skip out on the alma mater again."

"I just really wanted nachos," another student said.

Team members were touched by the spike in support.

"They like us; they really like us!" a linebacker said.





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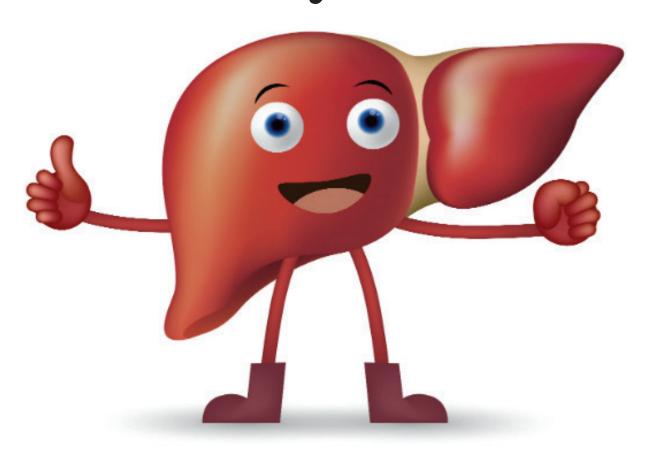
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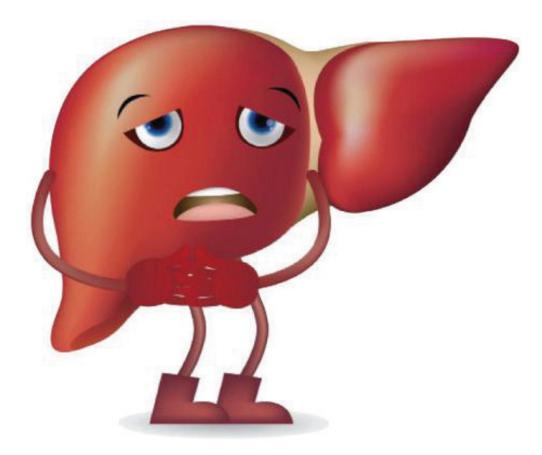
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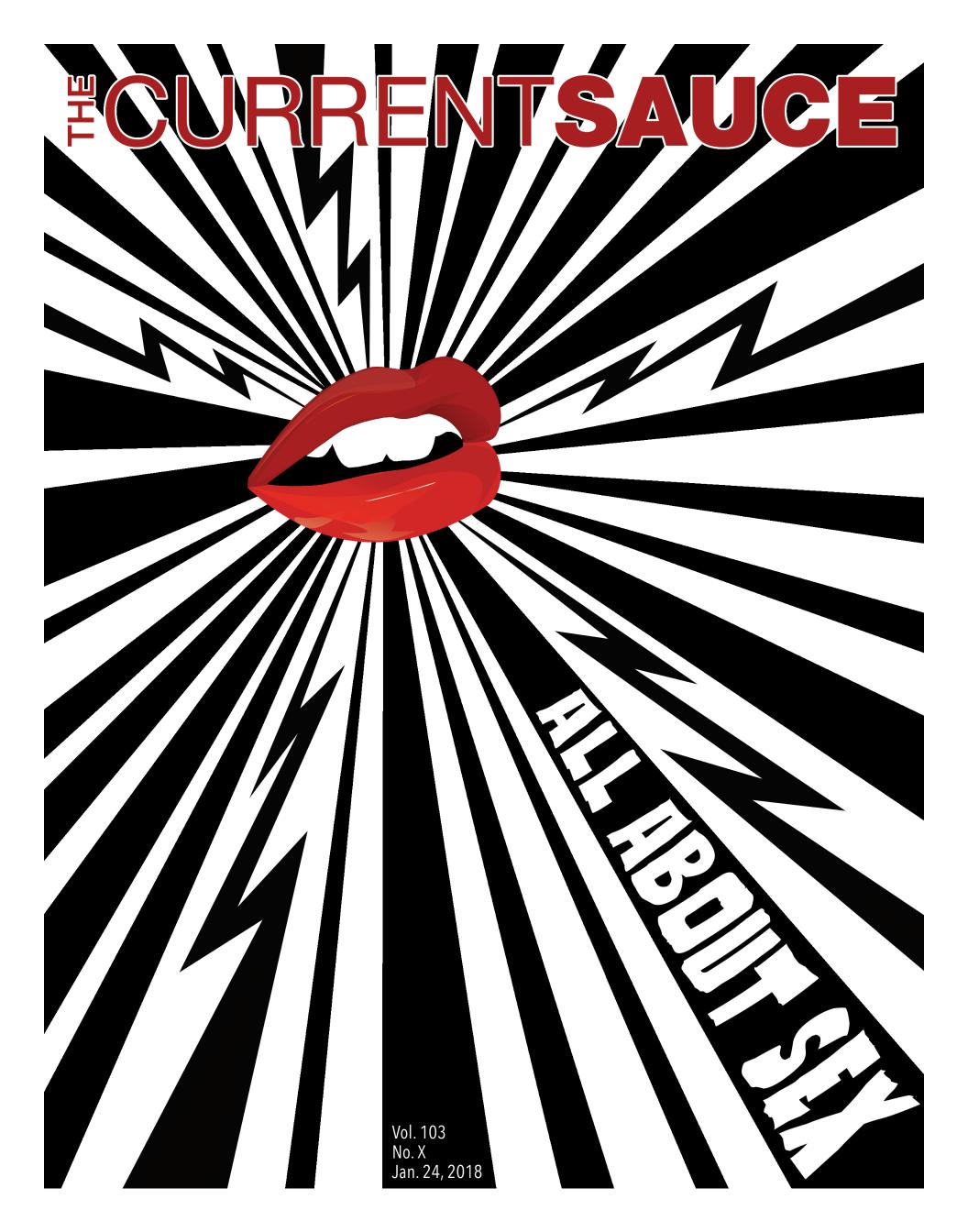
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This is your liver.



This is your liver after coming to NSU.





2 HEALTH JAN. 24, 2018



Letter from the Editor

ALEC HORTON *Editor-in-Chief*

This special issue of The Current Sauce was created entirely over the last two months by a team of dedicated staff who didn't mind putting in work during their winter vacations.

Our goals with these eight pages are to not only entertain, but to help college students make better-informed decisions regarding their sexual health.

Americans aged 15-24 make up half of all sexually transmitted disease diagnoses each year, according to the CDC. Furthermore, young adults and adolescents in Louisiana almost lead the nation in HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis rates.

The state's public schools are not required to provide sex education instruction. In cases where parents do not have "the talk," adolescents are often left to learn for themselves by whatever means they can find, if they care enough to find those means in the first place.

Ultimately, something needs to be done. If this special issue raises your awareness of just one resource available to you, or if it gets you to think a little bit more about the consequences of your sexual health decisions, then I think we've succeeded in our goal.

Something I'd like to highlight is that our Health Services office on the Natchitoches campus provides *free* testing for HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhea – services that often can cost more than \$100 if you're paying out of pocket. Take advantage of that while you're here! People who are sexually active should be tested regularly.

If you have an idea for another special issue that you would like to share with us, I encourage you to email thecurrentsauce@gmail.com for our consideration.

Louisiana ranked second in STDs

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

A ccording to the 2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention STD Surveillance report, Louisiana stands as the state with the secondmost cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, and ranks first in primary, secondary and congenital syphilis cases.

The CDC presented the Louisiana Department of Health with a \$550,000 grant aimed at actions regarding congenital syphilis in November 2017. The grant, given to several states and varying in value, follows a record all-time high cases of the sexually transmitted diseases chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis in 2017, numbering more than two million throughout the United States.

Congenital syphilis occurs when a mother passes on syphilis to her child, which, if the infection does not cause problems with the pregnancy such as miscarriage, makes the child susceptible to deformities and neurological conditions.

To decrease the number of congenital syphilis cases in the state, physicians and care providers were

mandated by law beginning in 2014 to offer testing for syphilis and HIV at a patient's first prenatal visit and at her first prenatal appointment during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Though data for Louisiana has not yet been finalized, the third Quarterly Report of 2017, issued in September, showed 537 cases of primary and secondary syphilis and 485 cases of early latent syphilis, compared to totals of 750 and 568 in 2016, respectively.

While 71 percent of early syphilis cases in Louisiana were male, the number of cases reported nationally were higher among women than men, especially in women 20 to 24 years of age.

The CDC grant will be used under the Louisiana Department of Health's STD/HIV Program to improve data collection and resources across the state, especially in areas showing higher numbers of infection such as Orleans and East Baton Rouge parishes.

The CDC says young adults, especially, are at a higher risk for contracting STDs due to "behavioral, biological, and cultural reasons." More than one million cases of

mandated by law beginning in 2014 to chlamydia – out of 1.6 million total – offer testing for syphilis and HIV at a were reported in the 15-24 age group.

Chlamydial and gonorrheal infections, along with latent stage syphilis, usually show no symptoms or begin to show symptoms after a few weeks. Syphilis is typically indicated by chancre sores in the primary stage and rash and fever in the secondary stage.

All three – chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis – can be treated and cured with antibiotics but can result in serious medical consequences if left undiagnosed, including pelvic pain and infertility. Untreated STDs can also increase risk for contracting or spreading HIV.

The CDC suggests yearly STD tests each year for sexually active individuals.

NSU's Health Services provides free testing on the Natchitoches campus to those that pay the Health Services fee. They can currently test for chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV, and are looking to add testing services for syphilis in the future.

The Natchitoches Parish Health Unit located at 625 Bienville Street additionally offers STD and HIV testing.

Domestic violence has many consequences

ANTHONY RENTERIA

Reporter

Healthy intimate relationships are meant to be be caring, supportive and communicative. However, there are many cases in which a relationship is abusive in some form.

"Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person," according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Psychological abuse encompasses forced isolation, destruction of pets or property and threats of any nature. Economic abusers seek to force their partners into financial submission, or forbid them from going to school or work.

Emotional abuse is defined as "undermining an individual's sense of self-worth." Sexual abuse includes coercion, rape and sexually demeaning a partner.

Physical abuse includes hitting, shoving, grabbing, biting and, less obviously, denying access to medical care or forced use of alcohol or drugs,

among other actions.

According to the the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in three women and one in four men in the U.S. have been victims of physical violence by an intimate partner. In Louisiana, approximately four out of five female homicides are committed by either a current or former partner.

The Bureau of Justics Statistics' most-recent report says approximately 60 percent of family violence victimizations were reported to police between 1998 and 2002.

Other victimizations are unfortunately kept in secret and are difficult to escape from.

The National Violence Against Women Survey found that approximately 43 percent of both men and women who experienced physical assault by their partners were victimized by that person for one to five years. The average duration of physical assault by one partner was 4.5 years for women and 3.6 for men.

Any combination of the above types of domestic abuse can be partnered with the end goal of having the partner fear his or her abuser. Applied successfully, it satisfies the abuser, but there are often unintended consequences. What many fail to realize is that domestic abuse and violence has negative effects not only on the direct victim, but on their offspring.

Children who witness domestic violence often experience anger, withdrawal and hostility at higher rates than their peers. Similar to adult survivors, children exposed to these forms of abuse are at a higher risk for developing anxiety and sleep disorders, experiencing mental health issues and even predisposing them to physical health problems as a result of high stress levels.

If you think your partner is abusive, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-300-799-7233, or visit their website at thehotline. org to chat with an advocate. Both the phone line and online chat offer 24/7 access to advocates who are trained to identify domestic violence and provide victims with support, intervention information and referral services.

JAN. 24, 2018 HEALTH 3

Is abstinence-based sex ed to blame for high STD rates?

ALEC HORTON *Editor-in-Chief*

Louisiana ranks first in the nation for syphilis rates and second for HIV, chlamydia and gonorrhea, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

How can the state work to lower these diagnosis rates? NSU Director of Health Services Stephanie Campbell believes beginning sex education programs sooner is the key and emphasizes age-appropriate instruction.

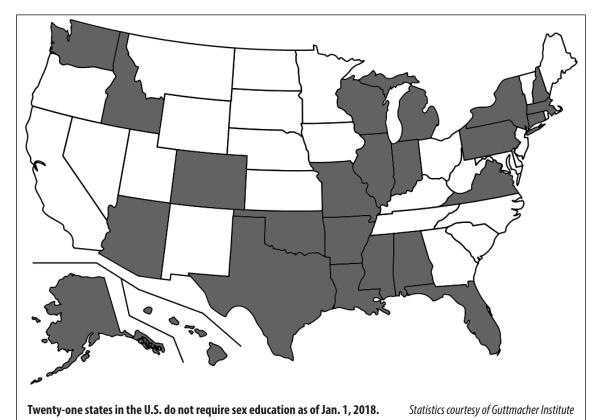
"I think that you could start with someone even who is 10 or 11 years old," she says. "As the maturity advanced and the development advanced, then you would need to step it up some."

The Louisiana State Legislature last revised its sex education directive in 1993.

In brief, the legislation says public schools are permitted, though not required, to provide sex education via school board-approved instructors as a part of science, physical education or similar coursework. This instruction must be based in biological and pathological information and cannot include religious beliefs, human sexuality practices or any person's moral or ethical standpoint.

Information provided in this instruction may pertain to puberty, menstruation, menopause, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and childbirth. Instruction must emphasize abstinence outside of marriage as "the expected standard for all school-age children."

Further, public schools are not permitted to distribute contraceptives or abortifacients, cannot depict male or female homosexual activity in their instruction and cannot council or advocate abortion by any means.



Lawmakers have made efforts in recent years to diversify topics covered in sex education and to allow the CDC to anonymously gather data from high school students about their sexual activity, though these efforts have all been struck down.

One opponent to the CDC surveying students' sexual activity, Sen. Gerald Long, believes Louisiana's almost nation-leading adolescent STD rates reflect a "social and moral and spiritual problem," and further suggested they are unlikely to tell the truth in such surveys anyway.

Senior biology major Taylor Powell grew up in the Louisiana public school system and remembers infrequent and general information about sex. primarily about anatomy, during elementary school. Her health class in high school, however, covered it extensively.

"That specific teacher seemed to push abstinence pretty hard," she says, also recalling a visitor from Shreveport's Crisis Pregnancy Center who did the same: discouraging premarital sex and saying condoms were not effective enough.

Later in high school, Powell took classes in biology, human anatomy and physiology and recalled those teachers covering birth control methods more extensively.

"It depended on the teacher," which topics under the sex education umbrella were covered, she says.

If Powell were at the helm, would recommend legislators take the following action: acknowledge abortion as an option to terminate a pregnancy; encourage school boards to be strict in authorizing sex education teachers; have teachers explain how different birth control methods work and effectiveness with preventing pregnancy and STDs; and have teachers address homosexuality.

"I think if we would have been exposed earlier, it would have been more effective," Powell says, in agreement with Campbell. "They need to be more realistic. Kids are having sex, and I feel like schools are pretending that people don't have sex until they are 18."

According to a study conducted by the Louisiana Public Health Institute and the Institute of Women & Ethnic Studies, 74 percent of parents believe schools should be required to offer sex education, and more than 60 percent believe their child has received or will receive such instruction in school.

In reality, however, the state does not require or monitor sex education. Aimed at improving the sexual health of Louisiana, LPHI created the Geaux Talk campaign in December 2017 to provide free comprehensive sex education – i.e., teaching abstinence alongside risk-reducing strategies to prevent pregnancy and STDs – to educators, caregivers and students that closer aligns to what they want to receive.

To access this information or to learn how to influence state policy regarding sex education, visit geauxtalk. org



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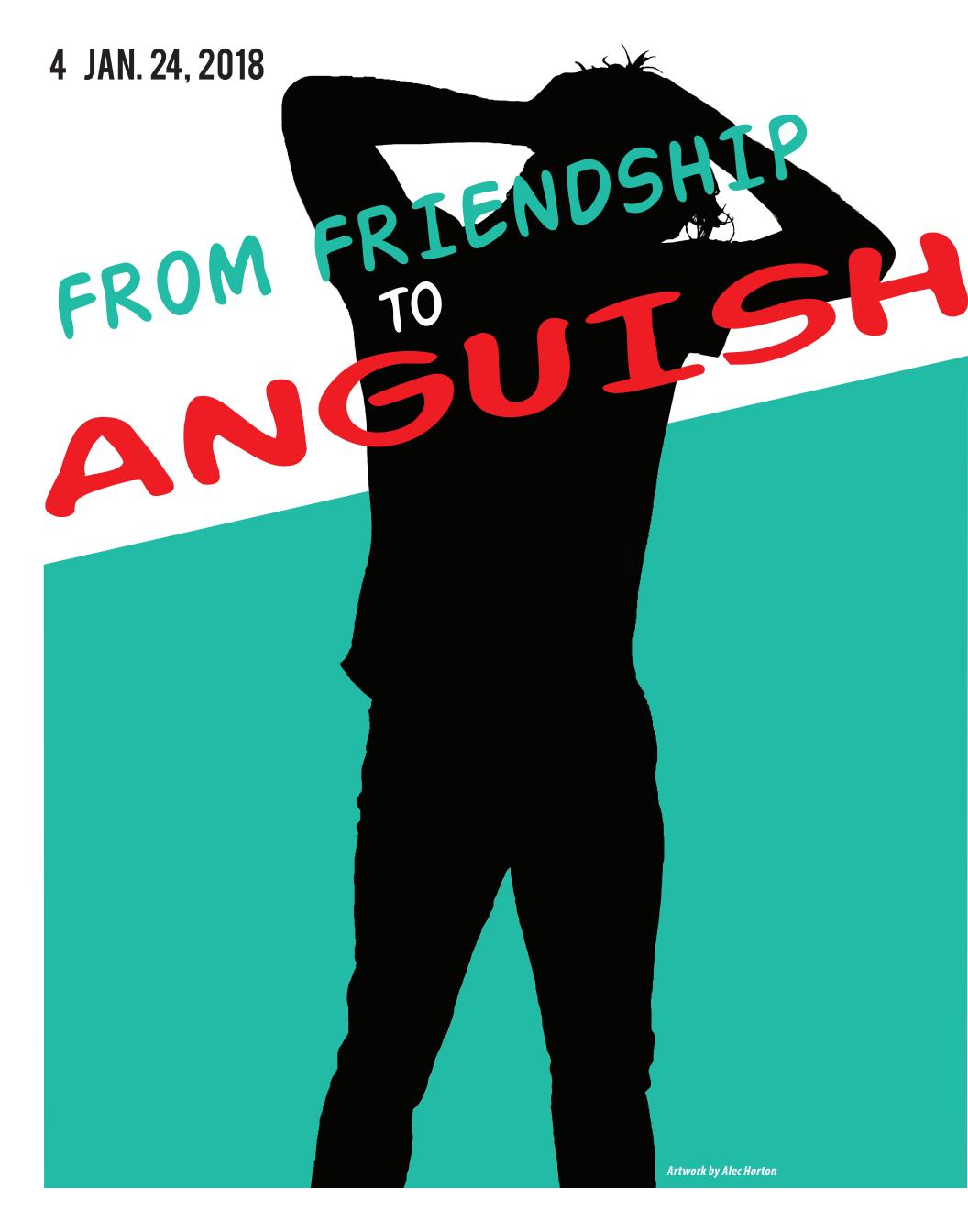






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A story of sexual assault

Editor's note: The names in this story have been changed to protect the identities and safety of the individuals involved.

LEXI ANTOON

Contributing Writer

freshman enrolls at NSU for the Afall 2017 semester and moves into his dorm, looking forward to a fresh start. He settles in a classroom desk when an old friend from home sits directly behind him.

Only he isn't just an old friend.

He was sexually assaulted by this person on a school trip during their high school years.

Josh was unable to remain in that class due to the onslaught of anxiety and quickly transferred classes.

Four high school students were assigned a hotel room during a school trip five years ago. Two of the boys, Josh and Donovan, had previously shared multiple conversations and texts of a sexually explicit nature.

boys talked about experimenting with one another in the hotel that night. When they settled into bed, Josh told Donovan he was uncomfortable doing anything with him while two other students were in

In the middle of the night, both boys are awoken by Josh's night terror, and Donovan attempts to comfort him by mimicking a porn scene he had watched.

"Do you want me to try and help you relax?" he says.

Donovan leans down and performs oral sex on Josh without his verbal

Josh tries to speak - any sound to wake the other boys in the room - but no words escape his lips; inside he is raging, but no sound emerges. He lies there, disoriented from the night terror. He commands his body to move, attempting to squirm his way up the bed

Josh leaves the bed and locks himself inside the bathroom after the incident. Fear, anxiety and adrenaline come together, forming a crescendo of selfdoubt. Physically ill and vulnerable on the cold floor, he feels a question lurking among the shadows:

"Was that rape?"

Ice and water form beneath Josh in his mind, and begin to coil and freeze around his prone form with the crushing weight of distress. Icy chills shoot up his spine, piercing his skin and filling the air around him with anguish's bitter tinge.

What was once a friendship with Donovan is now tainted with memories of unwanted lust.

Josh's color fades from his world, but a splash remains deep within his soul, preparing for the emotional battle ahead.

For the rest of his ninth grade year, Josh attempts to leave that scarring night behind but struggles with vivid nightmares and crippling panic attacks. He suffers in silence, fearful of what his peers might think.

"If people think I'm lying, I'm going to be hated."

By his sophomore year, the emotional turmoil began to eat away at the armor Josh so carefully built. He struggled coming to terms with what happened. After his lust for life diminished each day, he decided to

Armed with a bottle of pills intending to end his life, Josh's saving grace came in the form of his mother.

"I had a panic attack and gave her the bottle of pills."

Although lost in tides of selfloathing and confusion, Josh refused he had over his life after self-reflection and a failed relationship.

He began questioning his attraction to men, thinking, "What if it's just me trying to find someone to protect me?"

He realized no one else could help him to fully move on; Josh had to face the emotional walls he erected on his own terms.

discovering his alleged Upon attacker was dating other students, Josh decided to raise male sexual assault awareness at his school.

"I may want to f---ing die, but I'm not going to let other people want to die like this."

Josh worked tirelessly so others might be afforded the safety and choice he was stripped of. He was determined to regain control of his life.

He understood how easy it was to put trust in someone only for it to be shattered in moments.

The aftermath almost cost Josh his life. But through helping other young men and raising awareness, he now thinks of himself as a strong survivor.

"Scarlet red."

He says the color best reflects the period of his life after he was assaulted. The color reminds him of blood and lust - twisting what is meant to be a beautiful act.

After years of reflecting on that fateful night, Donovan came to understand how much he hurt Josh. From his perspective, he only wanted to comfort Josh after the night terror. Donovan knows he should have received verbal consent and wishes he could change his actions.

"Regardless if I had been malicious or not, it still hurt him the same way."

Years later, Josh says his true colors begin to shine through; he's never felt more at home than he does at NSU. His transition from high school to

to sink. He realized how little control college was difficult but afforded him the chance at a new beginning.

Sea green is the color Josh says best reflects his beginning at NSU. He says he is now more comfortable with not only his sexuality, but with his personal identity.

Prior to a definition change in 2013, the FBI received countless reports every year that didn't fit the criteria to be classified as rape. That year, the definition changed from "the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will," to remove the word "forcibly" and include males, and both oral and anal penetration.

However, the new criteria didn't help for Josh. He did not report the incident to police, as is the case with many sexual assault victims.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, an estimated four out of five rapes or sexual assaults go unreported, making it the most underreported crime in the

In sharing his story, Josh hopes for victims to know one thing:

"This is not forever."

6 OPINION JAN. 24, 2018

Religion and sex continue to clash

SAMANATHA MAIETTE

Managing Editor

Throughout the South, any topic relating to sex has been, for the most part, taboo. Growing up in multiple southern states I witnessed the push for abstinence by those who were supposed to educate my classmates and I firsthand.

As a freshman in high school, I clearly remember a woman who came into my health class and spoke to us about how she felt dirty after having sex and that she is a "born again virgin." In the same class the teacher took two pieces of construction paper, taped them together, then pulled the two apart and said the paper is a representation of two people engaging in sex and that no matter how hard one tries you can never get rid of the fact that someone touched you in a way only your spouse should.

What was it about sex that made people cover their ears and run for the hills when simple words such as condoms or birth control were mentioned? It wasn't until coming to college I realized what the 'it' was: Religion.

Religion and sex have been intertwined since Eve took a bite from the forbidden fruit, and it is from there that religious leaders latched themselves onto the topic of sex and constantly belittle those who express their sexuality.

The Christian Bible states the following in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5: "For God wants you to be holy and pure and to keep clear of all sexual sin so that each of you will marry in holiness and honor – not in lustful passion as the heathen do, in their ignorance of God and his ways."

This passage basically says one should refrain from having any sexual desires or partake in any sexual activity so that one may remain pure for the marriage bed.

What if someone decides to express their sexuality before they get married?

It is that question that reveals the problem involving religion with sex. The push for abstinence-based sex education due to strong religious influence, for example, has led to a lack of



Photo by Alec Horton

proper flow of information.

Louisiana was ranked first among the 50 states in 2016 for the number of syphilis cases and second for gonorrhea and chlamydia, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One could argue that those statistics are due to the lack of proper sex education in an abstinence-based culture.

Here's the thing, though: Waiting until marriage to partake in sex works for some people, but that philosophy does not work for everyone and is something that should not be pushed on the masses.

If people want to partake in sexual activities, no matter their age, they will find someone who is just as willing as they are. In 2015, 24 percent of ninth graders and 35.7 percent of tenth graders in Louisiana reported ever having sex according to the State Health Profile collected by the CDC.

No matter how strongly abstinence-based sex education is pushed, it does not work. High schoolers are going to start having sex when they decide they are ready. Sex education should not be influenced by the religious community; it should be based on facts and discussed in a controlled environment.

Abstinence could be discussed by stating that sex should saved for committed relationships with someone who you are in love with. It should not be the main topic of educational resources simply because in the main focus of life, people need to be fully informed about all available options.

The problem with virginity: a needless social construct

HOLLY JENKINS

Opinion Columnist

What is virginity, and how much influence does it have on a person's life?

Virginity by definition is nothing more than the state of having never engaged in sexual activity, but culturally it is often seen as much more than that. Although virginity can be applied to both men and women, it often affects women more harshly.

Throughout the ages, the idea that a woman should wait until marriage to have sex has been prevalent in many cultures, and it is still prevalent even today.

Many women are taught

that the act of sex "changes" them positively if they are married or in a monogamous relationship and negatively if not.

I was never taught to see virginity as anything more than never having sex; I was never led to believe that it had any effect on me as a human being.

Unfortunately, many women do not have the same experience.

So often, I've heard awful descriptions of insults to women who don't wait until marriage to have sex, usually implying that they are "dirty." In high school, I once heard a girl say to a friend that "virginity is like a phone

- why would a man want a used one?"

Unfortunately, this comment is not the only one of its kind that I've heard.

Women are also fed lies, such as the one we've heard so often like that the first time engaging in sex always hurts. Everyone has a different pain tolerance, but under most circumstances sex shouldn't be excruciatingly painful. In my opinion, these are only myths perpetuated to scare women.

Historically, virginity was desired because before paternity tests existed it was the only way for men to be sure that their children were truly theirs. According to History Undressed, on the night of a marriage, men, sometimes with their families waiting outside the door, would check to make sure their wife bled, signifying that she was "pure."

But the hymen—the usual source of any possible blood—is not necessarily what people are led to believe it is. It doesn't just break and then go away for good. If one is celibate for a while, it usually repairs itself. Additionally, some women break their hymen early on in life through activities such as horseback riding or gymnastics. Having an intact hymen does not necessarily

signify that one is a virgin; similarly, having a broken hymen does not indicate that a woman has lost her virginity.

The myths that go along with virginity can usually be connected to ignorance. In 2018, it feels like I shouldn't have to say this, but losing your virginity does not at all change who you are or make you any less of a human being.

Whether people want to admit it or not, people have sex, and more often than not, they don't wait until marriage. It's long past time for humanity to stop placing such a value on something so trivial.

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The ugly side of donating blood: legal discrimination

JORDAN REICH

Associate Editor

According to the American Red Cross, someone in the United States requires blood every two seconds. While 38 percent of the population are able to donate blood, only about 10 percent choose to do so

Yet there is one group that is still unable to donate blood on a regular basis: males who have sex with males, also known as MSM.

In 2015, the Food and Drug Administration changed eligibility requirements for blood donation. Prior to the change, they were unable to donate blood at all; now, MSM can donate blood after 12 months without having sexual contact with another male.

The previous policy created in the 1980s during the AIDS epidemic discriminated against this group of individuals – and others – based considerably on fear and the spread of incorrect information about AIDS transmission.

While the FDA has conducted new research and changed this policy, it seems unfair that MSM cannot donate blood unless they have not had sexual contact in over a year. If proof of a clean bill of health can be provided, as in absence of STDs and HIV/AIDS, shouldn't they be allowed to donate?

Consider this. In June 2016, 49 lives were lost and 58 others injured during the Pulse night club shooting in Orlando. People turned up to donate blood in the wake of tragedy, but MSM were turned away, asked to make a monetary contribution or volunteer their time rather than give blood.

It must be mentally taxing and frustrating to not be able to donate blood to people you know or identify with due to your sexual orientation, especially in situations of discrimination and homophobia.

This is not to say the FDA or Red Cross is necessarily homophobic; the very decision to lift the lifetime ban for MSM and continue to conduct scientific research shows they have taken steps

to correct past decisions. In fact, the Red Cross recognizes the LGBTQ+ community and provides information for several sexual orientations and gender identities.

However, Li Zhou and R.T. Winston Berkman of Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and New York University, respectively, point out that before the FDA's eligibility requirements were changed in 2015, MSM were placed on par with intravenous drug users.

In their study published by Columbia Medical Review in June 2015, the two also point out the problematic nature of the MSM ban in statements such as the following:

"MSM who practice

safe sex in consensual and monogamous relationships are considered as high risk... while heterosexual donors who engage in unprotected sex with multiple partners are not."

Stigma surrounding gay sexual encounters in any capacity should be recognized, and if there are any regulations predicated on such stereotypes and misconceptions, they must be removed. Otherwise, discriminatory policies and stigmas will remain.

When it is common to identify yourself as a blood or organ donor on your driver's license, and many potential donors are disqualified due to a problematic regulation, there must be something done about it.

Experiencing biphobia firsthand

CHRISTINA ARRECHAVALA

Opinion Columnist

Growing up in southern Louisiana, a mention of anything but the standard Bible definition of love and marriage was strictly prohibited, mostly by the sure social isolation that would result.

A year ago, I finally decided to speak out against my traditional upbringing and had the confidence to come out as bisexual. What I was not prepared for was the teeter-totter I would be kept in from both the straight and LGBT communities.

Before college, my knowledge of sexuality was limited to liking the opposite sex or liking the same sex. I always dated boys in high school and was perfectly happy doing so, but when I started noticing one of my female friends in a different way, I fell back on my knowledge. If I enjoyed dating boys and wasn't a lesbian, what was I?

During my freshman year of college, I met a person who identified as bisexual for the first time. She suddenly opened my eyes to the world of sexual possibilities. It was the first time someone told

me that you could even like both sexes. I felt so stupid not knowing this.

For the next two years, I spent a lot of time talking to that friend and finding answers where any college student does: Google. How do you know you are bisexual? Do you have to tell everyone you meet? How do you even come out to people?

The answers that I found were scarier than I could have ever imagined. As I read through countless forums and watched numerous YouTube videos on bisexuality and coming out, I found that even though bisexuals are clearly included in the LGBT acronym everyone knows, they are treated as second-class in both the heterosexual and LGBT worlds.

One subject I came across was biphobia. According to the Bisexual Index, biphobia is defined as "dislike of bisexuality and of bisexual people as a social group or as individuals."

There are various false, biphobic comments that bisexuals must constantly face from society.

Bisexuals are seen as too gay for the straight community and too straight for the gay community. We are greedy by wanting both sexes. We are unable to stay in committed relationships because we will obviously cheat with the other sex. We are just too scared to fully come out as gay. We want the easy life because we are able to be 'straight-passing' half the time.

As someone who was looking to come out, the thought of having to hear any of these comments from friends and family was just too much. I stayed in the closet until my junior year when I finally decided the comments didn't matter.

Since coming out, most of the response has been positive, but I have still experienced my fair share of biphobia. People just do not understand it enough.

When I decided to get a tattoo of a rainbow, a close family member's actual comment was "Why do something so permanently for something that is temporary?"

My sexuality is not temporary. I am, and always will be, bisexual.

I have had to explain to friends that while I do identify as bisexual, I am still mostly attracted to males. No matter who I date, I will still be bisexual. I will make



Photo by Alec Horton

Senior Christina Arrechavala wraps herself in the pink, lavender and blue bisexual pride flag.

it a point to tell my partner my sexuality, even if they are male and we are in a "straight relationship."

I attended my first Pride last summer in San Francisco, California, and it took me the full two days to find a single bisexual flag among the sea of homosexual and transexual flags. As I walked around with one, even fellow Pride-goers took it upon themselves to tell me what they thought of my inability to make a choice of a

gender to date.

While I have experienced biphobia, the last year of being out and being true to who I am has been amazing. After sitting my close friends and family down to officially come out, I made it a point to never make coming out such a big deal again. I am bisexual, and I am fine with who I am.

Don't believe everything you hear about bisexuals. We just love who we love.

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The Eyes of Argus

Poetically Aroused

DELORES ATKINS

Argus 2016

He said he wanted to hear my poetry
He wanted to hear my voice echo in an empty room
Have my syllables

drag across

his

back

like fingernails
feel them pierce his flesh as he sunk deeper in my ideas
He wanted my tongue to lick around his head and bless him with
this knowledge

Words he wanted to lick up and down his body till his mouth would water

He wanted to cum inside my thoughts to give birth to his own masterpiece

Knowing if he hit it right, I'd let him hear it again
Or at least allow him to reciprocate
Allow his rhythm to brush up against my walls
Allow his metaphors to bend me over in the right position for him to
attack my physical

Ask me to recite it how he taught me
Because last time I was on top
He told me to slow it down
Let him see how nasty I could get when I spit on it
The subject matter was too intense not to jump on it

Ride it





BDSM community members address stereotypes

KEATOR POLEMAN

Reporter

Performing the same sex acts can be boring in certain relationships. If you are looking to explore, BDSM can help revitalize your sex life.

Bondage and discipline, dominance and submission, and sadomasochism are the main pillars of BDSM. There are many misconceptions surrounding the BDSM lifestyle, as well as controversy.

Words such as dominant, submissive, switch, pain slut, bondage and ball gag are just a few common terms associated with BDSM. Although people in more traditional, or "vanilla," relationships may look down at the lifestyle, it is not as despicable as it can appear to outsiders.

Two individuals currently active in the BDSM community answered a few questions about their relationships. One is a "dom," short for dominant, named Grady, and the other is a "switch," someone who can either be a dominant or a submissive, who goes by the name Syn.

- Q. How has BDSM affected your relationships with significant others?
- G. Grady says BDSM "enhanced" his relationship.
- S. Syn says the experience has strengthened the relationship she has with her partner and that she has found her soulmate.
- Q. Has the taboo surrounding BDSM affected your ability to have meaningful relationships?
- G. While he first viewed the lifestyle as taboo, he says he had to educate himself on it. Grady made it clear that the submissive partner(s) have all the power and that "If they say no, the answer is no." He also stressed that one should always analyze a scene before starting.
- S. Syn feels the taboo "makes it hard to maintain 'vanilla' relationships."
- Q. What would you say is the biggest misconception about BDSM?

- G. One of the biggest misconceptions he has heard is that "Everybody thinks BDSM is sex-driven" or always about sadomasochism, receiving sexual pleasure from inflicting or receiving pain . Grady made it clear that those in the community have their limits.
- S. While some feel the community allows people to abuse others, Syn says she has not felt abused by her encounters and that BDSM is "not abuse."
- Q. For those who have never tried the lifestyle before, what advice can you give to help quell any fears or worries they may have?
- G. Grady encouraged those interested to not join the lifestyle just because of sex. He says there are good groups online to contact. Also, he says you should educate yourself before joining and that it is important to not judge others for their lifestyle.
- S. Syn "did a ton of research" while she was looking into the lifestyle. The best thing to do is to "research [and] read." Syn suggests people who wish to learn more should find a group and always ask questions.
- Q. Do you believe the lifestyle is becoming more accepted?
- G. Although "Fifty Shades of Grey" has gotten more people interested in the lifestyle, Grady says the story is not what BDSM is about.
- S. Syn believes it has become somewhat acceptable but doesn't think "Fifty Shades of Grey" is a good example of what the lifestyle is really like. She says there is "so much planning for a scene" before it takes place.
- Q. How strict would you say are the rules to properly have a scene?
- G. He says that the rules are very strict in a proper scene; one said rule is the use of a contract between the parties involved. Private dungeons have even stricter rules, including STD testing.
- S. While there are strict guidelines, Syn says there are "always gonna be rule breakers." However, she says that a scene can have people to watch over the participants to make sure everything is going well.